

ALGERIA SIEGE

ANIS BELGHOUL
PAUL SCHEMM
 Associated Press
AIN AMENAS, Algeria (AP) — The militants had filled five jeeps with hostages and begun to move when Algerian government attack helicopters opened up on them, leaving four in smoking ruins. The fifth vehicle crashed, allowing an Irish hostage inside to clamber out to safety with an explosive belt still



Algerian special police unit officers secure the hospital in Ain Amenas, Algeria, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, two days after the start of the terrorist attack at a gas plant.
 (AP Photo/Anis Belghoul)

strapped around his neck. Three days into the crisis at a natural gas plant deep in the Sahara, it remained unclear how many had perished in the faceoff between Africa's most uncompromising militant group and the region's most ruthless military. By Friday, around 100 of the 135 foreign workers on the site had been freed and 18 of an estimated 30 kidnappers had been slain, according to the Algerian government, still leaving a major hostage situation centered on the plant's main refinery.

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President Barack Obama walks toward the entrance of the Rose Garden on the White House grounds in Washington.
 (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has been looking to historians for guidance on how to shape his second inaugural's words into a speech for the ages, eager to make good use of his twice-in-a-lifetime op-

portunity to command the world's attention. He will take the oath of office Sunday in an intimate White House ceremony witnessed by family, and then again Monday at the Capitol before a crowd of hundreds of thousands on the National Mall. Wash-

ington will also play host to the traditional inaugural parade and formal balls Monday, as well as a day of service Saturday that kicks off the festivities. But it's Obama's inaugural address that will be the centerpiece of the three-day affair.

The president will seek to turn the page on a first term consumed by economic turmoil and set an optimistic tone for four more years that will help define his legacy.

Continued on Page 4

Dutchman Dijsselbloem gets strong backing to be next Eurogroup chief

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The outgoing chairman of the Eurogroup, the regular meetings of the 17 eurozone finance ministers, endorsed Dutch finance minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem on Friday as a "good" candidate to take over his job on Monday.

On top of the backing from Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, Germany too had warm words for Dijsselbloem (DIE-sell-bloom), further building expectations that he will be given the job.

The Eurogroup chairman has a key role in coordinat-

sided with Germany and other northern European states in pushing for tough rules and conditions in exchange for bailouts for financially weaker countries, mostly in the south.

Rutte said the Dutch government "does not support permanent money streams from northern to southern Europe. We want to help southern Europe temporarily so long as southern Europe reforms and sticks to agreements."

"That is the tradition he comes from and that is the tradition he would operate in as chairman of the Eurogroup," Rutte said of Dijsselbloem.

credit rating and regular support for German positions made the Dutch candidate a logical choice for Berlin.

Juncker, who has chaired the Eurogroup since 2005, said last year that he wants to step down. Dijsselbloem is the only established candidate for the job and the appointment is expected to be confirmed during the monthly Eurogroup meeting of finance ministers on Monday.

Dijsselbloem, 46, called himself "a newcomer in this financial world," and his lack of experience could count against him. He was almost totally unknown



Luxembourg's Prime Minister and head of the eurogroup Jean-Claude Juncker, center right, and Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem, center left, speak with the media in Luxembourg on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013. The outgoing leader of the group of finance ministers from the 17 European Union countries that use the euro is meeting with Jeroen Dijsselbloem on Friday, another indication the Dutch finance minister will take the post next week. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

ing economic and financial policies among the 17 EU countries that share the euro as well as with the other executive bodies in Brussels.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said that Dijsselbloem, if confirmed, would continue to support the focus on austerity measures and economic reforms as a way for Europe to solve its financial crisis.

He said Dijsselbloem would be "strict" with nations over their finances: "(He) doesn't like deficits."

Netherlands has over the past three years mostly

Juncker met with Dijsselbloem, who only became Dutch finance minister late last year, in Luxembourg on Friday to give his expected successor tips and advice on how to run the group.

"The Dutch finance minister has presented his candidacy, which is a good one," said Juncker.

In Berlin, government spokeswoman Marianne Kothe said Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble has made it clear he thinks Dijsselbloem, a Labor Party politician, is a very competent candidate.

The Netherlands' AAA

outside political circles before his appointment in the Netherlands last fall.

Not everyone is pleased with Dijsselbloem's candidacy. French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici criticized him for not having publicly expressed any "vision" for economic and fiscal policies in the euro area. Dijsselbloem said he would soon do so.

"Well, I hope you will allow me to present my priorities Monday to my colleagues," he told reporters on Friday. "That is the right order and respectful to my colleagues." □

EUROZONE BRIEFS

Snow forces Heathrow to close runway

LONDON (AP) — Heathrow Airport briefly shut a runway and canceled dozens of flights because of a snowstorm causing widespread travel disruption across Britain. The London airport's northern runway was closed for 45 minutes and re-opened Friday after being de-iced and cleared of snow. About 180 flights were canceled by midday. Rail traffic was disrupted and roads were forced to close amid plunging temperatures and icy conditions. Forecasts of inclement weather forced hundreds of schools to shut down. The worst of the snow was expected to the south and west of London, though most of the country would be affected. □

Court refuses to halt Berlusconi appeal

MILAN (AP) — A Milan court has refused to halt ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi's fraud appeal until after national elections. The court ruled that the hearings, which began Friday, will continue but that the verdict will be returned after the Feb. 24-25 elections, avoiding any "media clamor" impacting the race. The 76-year-old media mogul is appealing his conviction on a tax fraud charge and four-year sentence relating to the sales of U.S. movie rights to his private networks. It is one of three pending trials. Three judges on Monday refused to halt the sex-for-hire trial against Berlusconi, accused of paying for sex with an underage Moroccan teen. □

Police receive dozens of tips on tunnel

BERLIN (AP) — German police say they have received dozens of tips after releasing images of the 45-meter (150-foot) tunnel dug by robbers into the safe deposit room of a Berlin bank last weekend. Police also issued an artist's sketch of a stocky man in his 30s or 40s considered a possible suspect in the audacious heist. Spokeswoman Diana Born said Friday that a special task force is sifting through 90 tips received over the past days. Photographs show circular holes in the huge concrete wall of a parking garage where the robbers began their work last February. Police still don't know what was stolen or how much it was worth. □

Sweden train crash deemed an accident

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish authorities have dropped a criminal investigation against a woman previously suspected of stealing a commuter train that crashed into an apartment building. Investigators on Friday said the woman probably started the train by accident as she was cleaning it at a depot early Tuesday. The four-car train rolled about a mile to the end station of the railway line, where it jumped off the tracks, careered for about 30 yards and crashed into a three-story building. Prosecutor Par Andersson said she appears to have put the train in motion through a series of "unfortunate circumstances." □

Polite professor guilty of damaging cars

LONDON (AP) — A British professor who specializes in cities and urban life has been convicted of damaging luxury cars with graffiti that was surprisingly polite. Stephen Graham, who teaches at Newcastle University in northeast England, was found guilty Friday of using a screwdriver to scrawl inoffensive words such as "very silly," "really wrong" and "arbitrary" into the paintwork of vehicles including a Mercedes, an Audi, and a Volvo. Prosecutors said the spree caused 18,000 pounds (\$29,000) in damage. Graham previously blamed a bad reaction to alcohol, antibiotics and prescription drugs for his behavior. □

Algerian forces take hard line in hostage battle

Continued from front

The government said 12 workers, both foreign and Algerian, were confirmed dead. But the extremists have put the number at 35. And the government attack Thursday on the convoy — as pieced together from official, witness and news media accounts — suggested the death toll could go higher.

In Washington, U.S. officials said one American — a Texan — was known to have died.

Meanwhile, the al-Qaida-linked Masked Brigade behind the operation offered to trade two American hostages for two terrorists behind bars in the U.S., including the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing — a deal the U.S. rejected out of hand. "The United States does not negotiate with terrorists," declared State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland.

The remote Ain Amenas plant, jointly run by BP, Norway's Statoil and Algeria's state-owned oil company, is deep in the featureless desert. The Algerian government has released few details about the continuing siege.

By Friday, however, the outlines of the takeover by Islamic militants were coming into focus. The attack had been in the works for two months, a member of the Masked Brigade told an online Mauritanian news outlet that often carries al-Qaida-related announcements. The band of attackers included militants from Algeria, Mali, Egypt, Niger, Mauritania and Canada, he said.

He said militants targeted Algeria because they expected the country to support the international effort to root out extremists in neighboring Mali.

Instead of passing through Algeria's relatively well-patrolled deserts, the attackers came in from southern Libya, where there is little central government and smugglers have long reigned supreme, according to Algeria's Interior Min-

ister Daho Ould Kabila.

He said the attackers consisted of about 30 men armed with rocket launchers and machine guns and under the direct supervision of the Masked Brigade's founder himself, Moktar Belmoktar, a hardened, one-eyed Algerian militant who has battled the Algerian government for years and went on to build a Saharan smuggling and kidnapping empire linked to al-Qaida.

Early Wednesday morning, they crept across the border, 60 miles (100 kilometers) from the natural gas plant, and fell on a pair of buses taking foreign workers to the airport. The buses' military escort drove off the attackers in a blaze of gunfire that sent bullets zinging over the heads of the crouching workers. A Briton and an Algerian, probably a security guard, were killed.

Frustrated, the militants turned to the vast gas complex, divided between the workers' living quarters and the refinery itself, and

Algerians interviewed by French radio described militants knocking down doors in the living quarters, saying they were looking

Algerians and kept under close guard, wrapped with explosive belts. The Algerians for the most part were allowed to wander freely around the complex, and some were released, according to the state news agency.

Alexandre Berceaux, a Frenchman who was later rescued by Algerian soldiers, described two harrowing days of confusion hiding in his room as Algerian colleagues supplied him with food.

"I stayed hidden in my room for almost 40 hours," he told Europe 1 radio, saying he hid under the bed and didn't even realize when his ordeal was over. The militants declared that the takeover was prompted by France's attacks on al-Qaida-linked rebels in Mali, and they demanded that the intervention end or the hostages would pay for it. □



An Algerian military truck drives past a road sign indicating the city of Ain Amenas where hostages have been kidnapped by Islamic militants at a gas plant, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013

(AP Photo/Anis Belghoul)

seized hostages, the Algerian government said.

The takeover soon turned into a standoff as military units from a nearby base surrounded the complex.

for foreigners. The foreign workers, including Americans, Britons, French, Norwegians, Romanians, Malaysians and Japanese, were separated from the

Panetta urges "relentless pressure" on al-Qaida

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — As international military operations continued in Algeria and Mali, Defense Secretary

range of security threats in the future.

Panetta was speaking as officials were still trying to sort out details in the kidnapping and possible res-

ensure that terrorists can't establish safe havens in places like North Africa or anywhere in the world.

Just after he spoke, Panetta went to No. 10 Down-

to rescue hostages held by Islamic militants at a natural gas facility. Panetta began his speech at King's College with a threat of his own — warning terrorists that they will find no refuge in Algeria, North Africa or anywhere. But he provided no details on the murky rescue operations that officials say have continued throughout the day.

Instead he went on to speak more broadly about the need for NATO to build deeper relationships with alliances of African nations and increase its work with Asian countries in order to better face down future threats. He said NATO is the one true military alliance that can act decisively to advance global peace and security, but to fulfill that goal it must be strong and bold enough to change. The allies, he said, can't focus on one mission — such as stability operations in Afghanistan. Instead, they must be creative and share capabilities and not let budget constraints prevent them from facing security challenges that come up. □



U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, center, has a pint with his staff, including John Baxter, left, personal physician of the secretary, Navy Commander Larry Getz, right at The Ship and Shovell pub in London on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Leon Panetta urged NATO Friday to be more innovative and flexible so it can keep "relentless pressure" on al-Qaida and be able to respond to a broad

cue effort of hostages, including Americans, in Algeria. He said NATO nations must work together to help other countries beef up their security and

ing St. where he met for 45 minutes with British Prime Minister David Cameron and exchanged updates on the Algeria operation, where Algerian forces tried

Obama speech to turn page on first term

Continued from front

The president has been working on his speech since early December, writing out draft after draft on yellow legal pads, aides say. He's read several second-term inaugural addresses delivered by his predecessors. And last week, he invited a small group of historians to the White House to discuss the potential — and the pitfalls — of second-term inaugurals.

Heading into his speech, Obama does have history on his mind, particularly two of the great American leaders he most deeply admires, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. The start of Obama's second term coincides with the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of King's March on Washington, and he has chosen to take the public oath with his hand on both their bibles stacked together.

"Their actions, the move-

ments they represented are the only reason it's possible for me to be inaugurated," Obama said of Lincoln and King in a video released Friday by

will touch on some of the challenges he'll take on in a second term but won't delve deeply into the policy objectives he'll tackle in the next four years. Those

ence the Connecticut elementary school shooting that pushed gun control to the top of his agenda. He may also speak of a need to tackle comprehensive immigration reform, another second-term priority, and to bring U.S. troops home from Afghanistan.

Obama's speech won't be overly political. But aides said he will make the point that while the nation's political system doesn't require politicians to resolve all of their differences, it does require Washington to act on issues where there is common ground. And he will speak about how the nation's core principles can still guide a country that has changed immensely since its founding.

The president was still working on his speech heading into inauguration weekend.

He's been hammering out the details for many weeks with longtime speechwriter Jon Favreau, who worked with the president on his first inaugural address and nearly every other high-profile speech he's given

since.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the president takes the responsibility of a second term "enormously seriously."

"He didn't seek re-election just to be re-elected," Carney said. "He believes that we have work to do, and he believes that both the agenda he has put forward so far and the agenda he will put forward in the future will help this country move forward in a variety of ways.

This is something he feels very deeply."

Obama may aim for brevity in Monday's speech. Still, he's certain to speak longer than Lincoln, who offered the nation just 700 words in his acclaimed second inaugural.

Douglas Brinkley, one of the historians who met with Obama, endorsed the "brief is better" strategy. But he also said that with Obama scaling back some of the grandeur of the broader inaugural celebration, there is an opportunity for his speech to become the focal point.

"This time around, I think the inaugural speech has to carry the day," Brinkley said. "There are less balls, fewer people. There's a chance to make this stand out."

The inaugural ceremonies are a national tradition but not constitutionally required. The 20th Amendment says the president and vice president automatically start their new terms at noon on Jan. 20.

Obama plans to take the oath officially shortly before noon Sunday in the White House's Blue Room, an oval space with majestic views of the South Lawn and the Washington Monument. Named for the color of the drapes, upholstery and carpet, it is not typically used for ceremonies and instead has primarily been a reception room as well as being the site of the only presidential wedding held in the White House, between Grover Cleveland and Frances Folsum in 1886. □



A painter touches up an entrance post outside the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, in preparation for this weekend's 57th Presidential Inauguration, where President Barack Obama will be sworn in for a second term.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

the Presidential Inaugural Committee. "It's also a reminder for me that this country has gone through very tough times before but we always come out on the other side."

Aides say the president

details will be saved for his Feb. 12 State of the Union address.

But the tone and theme of Monday's speech will set the stage for the policy fights to come. Obama may in some way to refer-

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Campaign planned to take aim at NRA on gun control

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supporters of President Barack Obama's gun-control proposals are planning a methodical, state-by-state campaign to try to persuade key lawmakers that it's in their political interest to back his sweeping effort to crack down on firearms and ammunition sales and expand criminal background checks.

To succeed will require overturning two decades of conventional wisdom that gun control is bad politics.

The National Rifle Association is confident that argument won't sell. But with polls showing majorities supporting new gun laws a month after the Connecticut shooting deaths of 20 schoolchildren and six adults, gun-control activists say the political calculus has changed. Their goal in coming weeks is to convince lawmakers of that, too, and to counter the NRA's proven ability to mobilize voters against any proposals limiting access to guns.

The gun-control advocates are focused first on the Senate, which is expected to act before the House on Obama's gun proposals. How Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., proceeds will depend in part on what he hears from a handful of Democrats in more conservative states where voters favor gun rights. These include some who are eyeing re-election fights in 2014, such as Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Mark Begich of Alaska and Max Baucus of Montana.

“We need to tell our members of Congress that they've got to stand up for sensible gun laws, and if they do that, we will stand up for them, and if they don't we will stand up for whoever runs against them,” New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the U.S. Conference of Mayors Friday. “Because that's exactly what the NRA is trying to do.” Bloomberg's group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, is among a coalition of some 50 labor unions, advocacy groups and others that have been meeting since before Christmas to plot strategy, in loose coordination with the White House, according to people involved.

Just hours after Obama rolled out his gun proposals on Wednesday, the group gathered at the headquarters of the National Education Association to game out their plans. As of Friday, voters' calls to Reid's office were running two-to-one against Obama's proposals, a Reid aide said. Never far from such Democrats' minds is what happened in 1994, when the party suffered widespread election losses after backing President Bill Clinton's crime bill featuring a ban on assault weapons. Clinton and others credited the NRA's campaigning with a big role in those Democrats' defeats. And when the assault weapons ban came up for congressional renewal in 2004, it failed.

The goal of gun-control supporters will be to convince Democrats like Pryor, Begich and Baucus through phone calls, appearances at town hall meetings, print and TV ads and other means that voters in their state will support them if they back Obama's plans.

One group involved, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, ran print ads in North Dakota newspapers criticizing newly elected Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp after she expressed doubts about Obama's proposals. □

Republican leader: House poised to vote on debt limit

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled House will vote next week to permit the government to borrow more money to meet its obligations, a move aimed at heading off a market-rattling confrontation with President Barack Obama over the so-called debt limit.

Full details are not settled yet, but the measure would give the government about three more months of borrowing authority beyond a deadline expected to hit as early as mid-February, No. 2 House Republican Eric Cantor said Friday. The legislation would not require immediate spending cuts as earlier promised by Republican leaders like Speaker John Boehner. Instead, it is aimed at forcing the Democratic-controlled Senate to join the House in debating the federal budget. It would try to do so by conditioning pay for members of Congress on passing budget measures through the House and Senate.

“The principle is simple: ‘no budget, no pay.’”

But the idea ran into opposition from House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats who called it a gimmick because it would set up another potential confrontation in just a few months. Votes from Democrats may be needed to help pass the measure if Republican conservatives opposed to any increase in the debt limit withhold their support. “This proposal does not relieve the uncertainty faced by small businesses, the markets and the middle class,” said Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill. “This is



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio on Capitol Hill in Washington.
(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

a gimmick unworthy of the challenges we face and the national debate we should be having. The message from the American people is clear: no games, no default.”

The Senate has not passed a budget since 2009, which has drawn lots of criticism from Republicans but protected Democrats con-

trolling the chamber from politically difficult votes. The Republican measure would cut off or delay paychecks for lawmakers in either House or Senate if their chamber had not passed a budget resolution by April 15, but it would not require the two sides to reconcile their differences to keep receiving pay.

Obama and fellow Democrats welcomed the developments on the debt limit. “We are encouraged that there are signs that congressional Republicans may back off their insistence on holding our economy hostage to extract drastic cuts in Medicare, education and programs middle-class families depend on,” said White House Press Secretary Jay Carney in a statement. “Congress must pay its bills and pass a clean debt-limit increase without further delay.” □

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Transcripts reveal Fed underestimated crisis in 2007

C. S. RUGABER
M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials in 2007 underestimated the scope of the approaching financial crisis and how it would tip the U.S. economy into the worst recession since the Great Depression, transcripts of the Fed's policy meetings that year show. The meetings occurred as the country was on the brink of the worst financial crisis since the 1930s. As the year went on, Fed officials shifted their focus away from the risk of inflation as they slowly began to recognize the severity of the crisis.

During 2007, the Fed began to cut interest rates and took extraordinary

steps to ease credit and shore up confidence in the banking system. Throughout the year, the housing crisis deepened. Banks and hedge funds that had invested big in subprime mortgages were left with worthless assets as foreclosures rose. The damage reached the top echelons of Wall Street.

At the Fed's Oct. 30 policy meeting, Janet Yellen, then-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, said the economy faced increased risks. But she hardly predicted anything dire.

"I think the most likely outcome is that the economy will move forward toward a soft landing," she said. Chairman Ben Bernanke noted that housing was



The Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

(Handout Photo)

"very weak" and manufacturing was slowing.

"But expect for those sectors, there is a good bit of momentum in the economy," he said. Bernanke did acknowledge that there was "an unusual amount of uncertainty" surrounding the Fed's economic forecasts.

"In the aggregate data, there is yet no clear sign of a spillover from housing," Bernanke said in summing up the views of the committee.

By December, the economy had plunged into the recession, which would last until June 2009. Five years later, the economy has yet to fully recover.

The Fed did take action in 2007, although investors

seemed to think it waited too long. Markets were disappointed when the Fed refused to cut interest rate cuts at its Aug. 7 meeting. After the meeting, the Fed issued a statement declaring that the threats to growth had only "increased somewhat."

At the meeting, various Fed officials signaled their belief that the biggest threat facing the economy was inflation — not slower growth, the transcripts show.

Days later, BNP Paribas, France's largest bank, announced that it was suspending withdrawals from three investment funds, a move that jolted financial markets around the world. On Aug. 10, the Fed held the first of three emergen-

cy conference calls to discuss the emerging crisis.

The committee announced that it would pump billions of dollars into financial markets to try and calm turmoil on Wall Street and ease the tightening of credit.

One week later, the Fed called an emergency meeting to cut the discount rate on loans to banks.

Then in September, the Fed cut its key short-term interest rate for the first time since June 25, 2003. The Fed would cut the rate two more times in 2007 as the financial crisis worsened.

Still, the transcripts showed the central bank struggled through the year to develop a clear sense of how serious the unfolding crisis could be and what harm it might do to the U.S. economy.

At the Fed's final meeting of that year in December, the central bank's staff presented an economic forecast for 2008 that proved to be overly optimistic.

And despite concerns about the lending market and the quality of loans — particularly in real estate — Bernanke predicted that no major bank would fail.

"The result of this is that, although I do not expect insolvency or near insolvency among major financial institutions, they are certainly going to become more cautious."

In March 2008, investment banking giant Bear Stearns was rescued with the help of Fed support.

In the fall, mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were taken over by the government and the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008 set off a full-blown financial panic. □



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Geddes, managing editor, is leaving the New York Times

CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY
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John M. Geddes, a managing editor for The New York Times for the past decade and one of the top three editors at the paper, has decided to leave the company. In a note sent to the newsroom staff Friday afternoon, Geddes said he was accepting a buyout package and would depart in several months after helping with the transition on the newspaper's masthead. In his note, Geddes reflected on the many things he would miss about The Times, where he has worked for nearly two decades. "After serving four executive editors, it is time for new horizons," Geddes said in his announcement.

He said he would "ache for the vibrations that the newsroom gives off when a crisis erupts and we scramble" and would miss "hearing about a great story (or new ways to tell one)." Geddes joined The Times in 1994 as its business editor and worked his way up the company's editorial ranks. Before joining The Times, he had spent 13 years at The Wall Street Journal working in both New York and in Europe. He currently serves as one of two managing editors for The Times, along with Dean Baquet. His departure comes as the paper undertakes a broader restructuring in the newsroom. Like many newspapers facing a troubled advertising market, The Times is trying to cut expenses; in



John M. Geddes, left, with the executive editor of The New York Times, Jill Abramson, and a fellow managing editor, Dean Baquet, in the paper's newsroom in New York.
(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

December the paper offered buyout packages to nonunion staff members. It

sought 30 volunteers and said it would resort to layoffs if not enough employ-

ees opted for the buyout. In recent months, The Times has also announced the departures of executives on the business side, including Robert Christie, senior vice president of corporate communications, and Scott Heekin-Canedy, president and general manager of The New York Times. Both of their positions have been eliminated with their departures. Jill Abramson, the executive editor, said in a statement: "John Geddes is the consummate newsman with superb instincts for stories and people. We've been partners in the newsroom for nearly a decade. He has given his all to the Times for far longer than that. Most of all, I'll miss his company." □

High court to hear appeal in case of jilted woman

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court will hear an appeal from a jilted woman who was convicted under an anti-terrorism law for spreading deadly chemicals around the home of her husband's mistress. The justices said in an order Friday that they will revisit the case of Carol Anne Bond, who was given a six-year prison term for violating a federal law involving the use of chemical weapons. In 2011, the court unanimously sided with Bond to allow her to challenge her

conviction despite arguments from federal prosecutors and judges that she should not even be allowed to appeal the verdict. Lower courts subsequently rejected the appeal. Bond says she is in prison over a domestic dispute that resulted in a thumb burn for a onetime friend who became her husband's lover. Bond was convicted in federal court of trying to poison the woman by spreading toxic chemicals around her house and car and on her mailbox. Her argument is that the

case should have been dealt with by local authorities, as most crimes are. Instead, a federal grand jury indicted her on two counts of possessing and using a chemical weapon. The charges were based on a federal anti-terrorism law passed to fulfill the United States' international treaty obligations under the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The case began when Bond, unable to bear any children of her own,

learned that her best friend, Myrlinda Haynes, was pregnant. But Bond's initial excitement about the news turned to pain when she found out that her husband of more than 14 years, Clifford Bond, was the one who had impregnated Haynes. Vowing revenge, Bond, a laboratory technician, stole the chemical 10-chloro-10H phenoxarsine from the company where she worked and purchased potassium dichromate on Amazon.com. Both can be deadly if ingested or exposed to the skin at suf-

ficiently high levels. Bond spread the chemicals on Haynes' door handle and in the tailpipe of Haynes' car. Haynes, noticing the chemicals and suffering a minor burn, called the local police, who didn't investigate to her satisfaction. She then found some of the chemicals on her mailbox and called the U.S. Postal Service, which videotaped Bond going back and forth between Haynes' car and the mailbox with the chemicals. Postal inspectors arrested her. □

Syria:

Bloody week punctuated by Aleppo blast, car bombs

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A rocket slammed into a building in Syria's northern city of Aleppo and two suicide bombers struck near a mosque in the south Friday, capping a particularly bloody week in the country's civil war with more than 800 civilians killed, including an unusually large proportion in government-held areas. The residential building struck in Aleppo was in a part of the city controlled by regime forces, as was a university hit earlier in the week in an attack that killed 87 people, mostly students. The government accused rebels in both attacks, saying the hit the locations with rockets, a claim the opposition denies.

But if confirmed it would signal that the rebels have acquired more sophisticated weaponry from captured regime bases and are now using them to take the fight more into government-held areas in an attempt to break a

months-long stalemate in the war.

Rebels have in the past posted videos showing them capturing heavy rockets — apparently of

Rockets would for the first time give them a greater range, an advantage that until now the regime military has overwhelmingly held, with its arsenal



Rescue workers and bystanders at a building damaged by a rocket attack, that killed at least 12 people, in Aleppo, Syria, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013. In a spike in civil war violence, a rocket attack in the northern city of Aleppo occurred during a particularly bloody week nearly two years after an uprising began against Assad's regime.

(AP Photo/SANA)

the style fired from truck-mounted launchers — at regime military bases that they have overrun. But it is not clear whether the fighters have — or are able to — use any of the ballistics. The rebels' main weaponry are automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

of warplanes, helicopters, artillery, rockets and mortars. Regime bombardment has caused heavy civilian casualties — and if the rebels start blasting back with sometimes inaccurate rockets, the civilian toll would likely rise.

But the opposition has denied being behind the

Aleppo university strike and the hit Friday on the residential building, which one activist group said killed 12 people. The Local Coordination Committees of Syria, an activist group, and the Aleppo Media Center, a network of anti-regime activists, of hitting the building with an airstrike.

"It was an air raid," said Aleppo-based activist Abu Raed al-Halabi. When asked why the regime would attack a government-held area, al-Halabi said most people in Aleppo are opposed to the regime in Aleppo.

Al-Halabi said the rebels have captured some rockets around the capital Damascus but not in the Aleppo region. "If they have such missile they would have fired it at the Military Intelligence headquarters," he said.

Even if the rebels have captured surface-to-surface rockets it won't be a turning point in their battle against the regime of President Bashar Assad, said Aram Nerguizian, a Middle

East security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Such systems would "do little to erode (regime) air power, effectively target (its) infrastructure, turn the tide of the conflict or change the broader strategic picture," he said. And rebel use of rockets could backfire since "these inaccurate systems are more likely to produce either no impact or kill more civilians than Syrian military forces." Friday's strike in Aleppo and suicide car bombings in the southern town of Daraa occurred during a particularly bloody week in Syria's nearly two-year-old conflict. Since the previous Friday, more than 1,000 people have been killed, including 804 civilians, 214 soldiers and 20 army defectors fighting with the rebels, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a London-based activist group that gathers information from a network of contacts on the ground. □

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Cameron warns Britain could leave EU

JOHN F. BURNS
ALAN COWELL
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LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron, who canceled a long-anticipated speech because of a hostage crisis in Algeria involving Britons, planned to deliver an explicit warning that Britain might leave the European Union if changes in its administration were not made, according to excerpts from the speech released Thursday and embargoed until Friday.

According to the excerpts, Cameron would have said that without changes in the European Union, "the danger is that Europe will fail and the British people will drift toward the exit" — a statement that drew an admonition from President Barack Obama telling Britain not to jeopardize its membership in the European Union, British newspapers reported.

On Thursday, Cameron canceled his speech, which was to have been delivered Friday in Amsterdam, citing the need to stay in London to be on hand for developments in the hostage crisis in Algeria, where Britons were among the dozens of captives taken by Islamic militants at a natural gas plant operated partly by BP, the British-based oil giant. In Amsterdam, Cameron had planned to set out an outline of a plan to renegotiate a pared-down role for Britain in the 27-nation European Union, rebuffing the centralizing momentum in other major European nations as they struggle to save the euro, the common currency that Britain has shunned, and to call a referendum by 2018 on the result.

In advance of the speech, Cameron placed calls Thursday to Obama and

President Francois Hollande of France to set out what he would say, British officials said.

A White House spokesman said Obama "underscored our close alliance with the United Kingdom and said that the United States values a strong U.K. in a strong European Union, which makes critical contributions to peace, prosperity and security in Europe and around the world."

The warning came a week after a senior State Department official, Philip Gordon, the assistant secretary for European affairs, said a continued "strong British voice" in an "outward looking" European Union was in America's interests, and warned specifically against the referendum on Europe, which is an important component in Cameron's plans. "Referendums," Gordon said, "have often turned countries inward." □

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U.N. fails in attempt to restart Iran nuke probe



Herman Nackaerts, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Safeguards of the IAEA, talks to media after his arrival from Iran at Vienna's Schwechat airport, Austria, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013. (AP Photo/Ronald Zak)

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — U.N. experts returned from Tehran on Friday without sealing a long-sought deal that would restart a probe of suspicions that Iran worked on atomic arms, adding to doubts that upcoming separate talks between six world powers and the Islamic Republic will succeed in reducing fears about Iran's nuclear ambitions. Herman Nackaerts, who headed the team of International Atomic Energy Agency experts, said the two sides would meet again in the Iranian capital Feb. 12. But even if those talks make progress, they will come too late for an Iran-six nation meeting tentatively scheduled for the end of this month. Those nations — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — had looked to the Tehran meeting as providing a signal for Iranian readiness

to compromise when they sit down with Tehran. They hope those talks will result in an agreement by the Islamic Republic to stop enriching uranium to a higher level that could be turned relatively quickly into the fissile core of nuclear arms. Iran says it is enriching only to make nuclear reactor fuel and for scientific and medical purposes. This week Iran's Foreign Ministry again cited a 2005 fatwa by the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that banned nuclear weapons — a declaration the West has dismissed as a stalling tactic.

By compromising on the IAEA probe, Iran could have argued that the onus was now on the six powers to show some flexibility, temper their demands, and roll back U.S. and European sanctions that have hit Iran's critical oil exports and blacklisted the country from international banking networks. Although Tehran may hope that agreement to meet again next month with the IAEA shows it is interested in a deal, that may be too little for the six powers, who are growingly frustrated that their own talks with Tehran have barely progressed. Iran denies any interest in nuclear weapons, asserting that all its nuclear activities are peaceful. It stopped answering questions about allegations that it secretly did research and development work on such arms more than four years ago, saying it had provided enough information to disprove the claims. □

Myanmar announces unilateral cease-fire

THOMAS FULLER
© 2013 New York Times

BANGKOK — After weeks of intense fighting near the border with China, the Myanmar government Friday announced what appeared to be a unilateral cease-fire in its offensive against ethnic Kachin rebels. The government also said it would pursue peace talks. The announcement, which was made on state television during the main evening newscast, came only hours after Parliament approved a resolution calling for an end to a year and a half of fighting and as Myanmar's actions have

come under increased international scrutiny. The Myanmar military has intensified its campaign against the Kachin rebels since the end of December, and witnesses described frequent shelling in and around Laiza, the rebel base. The rebels had been losing territory almost daily. Many questions remain about the cease-fire, including whether the military will comply with the order. President Thein Sein — who is not the commander in chief under the country's new constitution — had suggested several times that the army was not supposed to go on the

offensive, but only to act in defense, but it has been unclear how strongly he was pushing the army to stop fighting. Friday's announcement was much more detailed, including a precise time (by 6 a.m. Saturday) when the cease-fire was supposed to go into effect. It was unclear how the Kachin rebels would react. One leading Kachin voice, the Rev. Samson Hkalam, the general secretary of the Kachin Baptist Convention, said by telephone that he was skeptical of the announcement. "According to our experience, the declarations by the government are one thing," he said. "What the army does is another." He also said the cease-fire was very limited in its scope. "There are many areas that Myanmar troops occupy," he said. "The cease-fire applies to only one area." According to the announcement, the cease-fire applies to the area around the town of Lajayang, the site of the major fighting. It is not known what that means for the rest of Kachin State. □



Minority Kachins shout slogans during a protest in front Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

North Ireland: Letter bomb sent to policeman thwarted

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press
DUBLIN (AP) — Postal workers intercepted a letter bomb addressed to a high-ranking Northern Ireland policeman Friday in a thwarted attack blamed on Irish Republican Army die-hards. Chief Inspector Andy Lemon thanked the postal

workers for spotting the suspicious letter before it reached him, and described it as an attempt to hurt or kill multiple officers in his station. He said it wasn't clear which specific IRA splinter group was behind the bomb. British Army experts dismantled the device during

a security operation that snarled traffic for several hours in Strabane, a predominantly Irish Catholic town that is a power base for several IRA factions in the British territory. Lemon is the town's police commander and the most senior officer to be targeted with a bomb in two decades. □

U.N. warns of refugee crisis in Mali

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE

© 2013 New York Times

GENEVA — As French and African troops prepare to escalate their offensive against Islamist forces in the north of Mali, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday it was preparing for around 700,000 people to flee the violence, many to neighboring countries. The U.N. believes more than 400,000 refugees could flee to neighboring countries and another 300,000 are likely to be displaced internally "in the next several months," Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, said. These will be in addition to around 376,000 who have fled the turmoil in the past year, she said, including 147,000 who went to Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso and around 229,000 the Malian government estimates are displaced within the country. Malians arriving in neighboring

countries since the start of French airstrikes a week ago said they feared the strict application of Muslim Shariah law by Islamist rebels. They have given accounts of executions and amputations and reported that children as young as 10 had been recruited to join the rebel groups. Some families handed over children to the rebels for religious reasons but the parents of most of the children were attracted by promised payments of around \$700, according to a report to the U.N. Human Rights Council detailing serious abuses, including executions, torture and rape committed by armed groups in northern Mali. It also reported similar atrocities in areas under the control of the Malian army. The report, compiled by human rights experts who visited Mali and neighboring countries in November, says combatants of one armed group, the National

Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, were reported to have executed 94 soldiers from a group of 153 it had captured. Women in northern Mali have suffered harassment and sexual violence from armed groups applying extreme interpretations of Shariah, the report added. The report said girls as young as 12, had been forced to marry members of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and other militant groups and subjected to days of gang rape before being abandoned after a "divorce." Malian soldiers were alleged to have executed nine Tuareg rebels in northern Mali in February and 16 pilgrims in September, the report said. It expressed alarm at mounting tension among ethnic groups in Mali and warned of possible reprisals against Tuareg and Arab communities believed to be linked to armed Islamist groups. □



One of four refugee families who share a house in Bamako, Mali. As French and African troops escalated their offensive against Islamist forces in the north of Mali on Friday, the United Nations refugee agency said it was preparing for around 700,000 people to flee the violence in Mali, many to neighboring countries. (Marco Gualazzini/The New York Times)

Falkland Islanders schedule critical vote

STANLEY, Falkland Islands (AP) — The Falkland Islands government has scheduled a referendum on the islands' political status and arranged for outside observers to show the world that it is free and fair.

Argentines claim British forces stole the territory from them 180 years ago and have ruled it as a colony ever since. The islanders now have a democratically elected assembly, overseen by an emissary of the Queen of England. They also have a sizeable British military defense, ever since Argentina's failed 1982

occupation. The vote on March 10-11 will be a simple yes or no question: "Do you wish the Falkland Islands to retain their current political status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom?" Islanders have predicted an overwhelming vote for "yes." □

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LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

18 Mexico cons sentenced to 30 years

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — A Nicaraguan judge has sentenced 18 Mexicans who posed as a television crew to 30 years in prison for drug trafficking and money laundering stemming from \$9.2 million found in their news vans. Judge Edgard Altamirano says the 17 men and one woman deserve the harshest penalty possible under the Central American nation's law. Altamirano said Friday's sentencing that each of those convicted must also pay a \$9.2 million fine. The 18 fake journalists were arrested in August near Nicaragua's northern border with Honduras in six vans bearing logos like those used by Mexican television giant Televisa. □

Jamaica official shot, killed at his home

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police say that an official with Jamaica's Ministry of Youth and Culture has been killed. Police said Friday that 45-year-old Sean Thompson was shot several times at his home. No motive has been established and no one has been arrested. Thompson was the ministry's director of corporate services. The killing occurred late Thursday in Spanish Town, just outside the capital of Kingston. The Jamaica Gleaner newspaper reported that Thompson also helped manage a local soccer team and taught math classes at a nearby impoverished community. Police have said that the incident is under investigation. □

Judge deems "Grey" trilogy improper

SAO PAULO (AP) — A Brazilian judge has ordered the erotic trilogy "Fifty Shades of Grey" taken off the shelves of bookstores in the city of Macae, or at least wrapped to prevent minors from opening them. A statement by the Judiciary Department says Judge Raphael Queiroz Campos issued the order after he saw children looking through the erotic books. Eleven copies of the "Grey" series are among 64 books taken from the shelves of two bookstores because their content was deemed "improper" for youths under the age of 18. The books can be returned to the shelves only if they are sealed and placed out of reach of minors. □

No dropped charge in Gitmo 9/11 case

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — There will be no change to the charges against five Guantanamo Bay prisoners accused in the Sept. 11 attacks after all. At least not yet. A Pentagon legal official has denied a prosecution request to withdraw the conspiracy charge. The chief prosecutor sought to dismiss the charge because a court ruling in another case meant that charge was vulnerable to appeal. But the convening authority says it is too soon to make that decision. The decision by retired Adm. Bruce McDonald was announced Friday. It means the five prisoners will still be facing eight charges, including nearly 3,000 counts of murder. □

Canadian, Peruvian miners kidnapped

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's military chief says the country's second-largest rebel band has kidnapped five gold mining workers in a northern province. They include a Canadian, two Peruvians and two Colombians. Gen. Alejandro Navas tells The Associated Press that the five were seized Friday morning by two dozen rebels of the leftist National Liberation Army in the Bolivar state municipality of Norosi. The rebel band known as the ELN has an estimated 1,500 fighters is far smaller than the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which is currently engaged in peace talks with the government in Cuba. □



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Colombian and Venezuelan diplomats hold talks

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan's newly appointed foreign minister Elias Jaua met the top diplomat of Colombia on Friday after vowing to continue backing peace talks between the Colombian government and leftist rebels. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has been a key supporter of the talks in Havana and Jaua, who took over his post three days ago, told Colombia's Blu Radio on Thursday that policy would continue. The meeting with Colombia's Maria Angela Holguin



Colombia's Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin, left, shakes hands with Venezuela's Foreign Minister Elias Jaua, as Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro, center, looks on during a meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013. Jaua has said he hopes to deepen relations with Colombia's government during Friday's meeting with Holguin.

(AP Photo/Miraflores)

comes at a moment when the talks between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have resumed after a holiday break.

Chavez remained out of sight in Cuba more than five weeks after undergoing cancer surgery, though Jaua said there would be no shift in policy.

"One of President Chavez's big bets throughout these 14 years (of his presidency) has been to bet on peace in Colombia," Jaua said in the radio interview.

"Of course we're going to continue supporting everything that the Colombian government requests of us to achieve the goal of peace." In previous years, Colombian officials accused Chavez's government of providing refuge to rebel group known as the FARC, and the U.S. government has said some senior Venezuela military officials have provided the FARC with arms and helped it traffic in cocaine.

Chavez and his government have denied those accusations, though the rebels have expressed affinity with the socialist leader's ideals.

Since Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos took office in 2010, he has built friendly ties with Chavez, ending the animosity between the two countries during the presidency of Santos' predecessor, Alvaro Uribe. Delegates from Chile and Venezuela have been designated as facilitators for the talks between the rebels and Colombia's government, though their exact roles have not been explained.

Fernando Gerbasi, a former Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia, said Holguin's visit to Caracas had been scheduled weeks ago and said he didn't think her visit was related to the uncertain situation in Venezuela surrounding Chavez's condition. He said Colombia's foreign minister in particular wanted to make sure Venezuela will keep cooperating in the peace talks.

Beatification process of Brazilian girl begins

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Roman Catholic archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro has launched a process aimed at putting a Brazilian girl on the path to sainthood.

Archbishop Orani Tempesta and Vatican representatives told reporters Friday that they had begun the process to beatify Odette Vidal de Oliveira, who was 9 when she died of meningitis in 1939.

The Rev. Joao Claudio Loureiro do Nascimento, a historian and member of the archdiocese commission that studies potential candidates for sainthood, said the next step will be to obtain proof of miracles attributed to Oliveira. One

miracle is needed for beatification and a second for canonization, the process of declaring a person a saint.

Nascimento said one miracle attributed to Oliveira was the recovery of a woman who suffered a serious hemorrhage after giving birth, leading doctors to tell her husband that she would die. "In prayers, the woman asked Odette for help and she recovered," he said.

The priest said Oliveira came from a wealthy family and "always asked the household staff to help the poor who begged for food and money. She also visited orphanages with her

mother and serve food to the needy."

"She was a very religious girl who always accompanied her mother to church," Nascimento said. "At age 4, she seemed to have intimate dialogues with Jesus." □



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China reports income gap ballooning

JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's government reported the scale of the yawning gulf between its rich and poor for the first time in 12 years on Friday and said it urgently needs to narrow the politically explosive gap. Beijing failed to report the widely used Gini coefficient for income distribution for a decade as complaints about the widening income gap mounted during China's fastest growth on record. That prompted suggestions the ruling Communist Party might be trying to downplay the gap between an elite who benefited from more than three decades of reform and the poor majority.

China's Gini coefficient was 0.474 last year on a 0-to-1 scale, down from a high of 0.491 in 2008, said the director of the National Bureau of Statistics, Ma Jiantang. That would make China among the world's most unequal societies. By comparison, Ma said Brazil's Gini number was 0.55, Argentina's 0.46 and Russia's 0.40. "We must focus on income distribution," Ma said at a news conference. "On the one hand, we need to make the cake bigger, while on the other, we need to do a better job of sharing it."

Narrowing the income gap is a pressing issue for new Communist Party leaders who took power in October. The government is rumored to be preparing to release a long-range plan to reduce inequality but there has been no official

confirmation.

The latest announcement follows two years of improvement in income distribution that Ma said was due to higher social spending and government efforts

multibillion-dollar fortunes for some entrepreneurs but income growth for the majority has been sluggish. Complaints about the lavish lifestyles of officials, Communist Party figures

Since then, Ma's agency has said it knew too little about incomes of wealthy households to do a calculation. The government announced a national survey last February to gather income data for a new calculation.

"Now, the government has officially released Gini coefficient, this shows we value the quality of GDP and are not just pursuing quantity," said economist Mao Yushi, a prominent reform advocate and a co-founder of the Unirule Institute of Economics in Beijing, an independent think tank.

The Gini figure is based on how much of a country's income goes to each economic level of society. The index ranges from zero for complete equality to 1 for perfect inequality. It also can be reported on a 100-point scale.

A report in December by researchers at Southwestern University of Finance in the southwestern city of Chengdu put China's Gini number at 0.61 for 2010.

An economist, Xu Xiaonian, ridiculed the latest poverty measure as "fake data" in a post on his microblog, reflecting widespread skepticism about the reliability of official information.

To make longer-term progress in narrowing the income gap, Chinese leaders will need to shake up an economic system that has created profitable monopolies and entrenched special interests, said Peng Xizhe, dean of the School of Social Development and Public Policy of Fudan University in Shanghai. □



A Chinese woman looks up in surprise at a price board while shopping for vegetables in a supermarket in Jiujiang in central China's Jiangxi province following the latest round of inflation increases.

(AP Photo)

to improve life for the poor. Private-sector economists say, however, that much of the rise in income for China's poorest is due to wage hikes prompted by labor shortages.

China's boom has made

and military officers who drive luxury cars, own villas and send their children to elite foreign universities have fueled political tensions.

The government last issued a Gini number for 2000.

Tibet burning; China clamping down harder

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese authorities are responding to an intensified wave of Tibetan self-immolation protests against Chinese rule by clamping down even harder — criminalizing the suicides, arresting protesters' friends and even confiscating thousands of satellite TV dishes. For months, as Tibetans across western China doused themselves in gasoline and set themselves alight, authorities responded by sending in security forces to seal off areas and prevent information from getting out, but those efforts did not stop or slow the protests. The self-immolations even accelerated in November as China's ruling Communist Party held a pivotal leadership transition.

Then the government went on the offensive in December, announcing through a state-owned newspaper that the burnings are the work of foreign hostile forces keen on separating Tibet from the mainland and that those who help others self-immolate are liable to be prosecuted for murder. Arrests quickly followed. "Tibet is getting into the global evening news because of self-immolations and so there's this anxiety to bring it under control," said Michael Davis, a law professor and Tibet expert at the University of Hong Kong. □



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are like family to them. The certificates were presented during a celebration with champagne and breakfast courtesy of the Divi Phoenix Resort, by Ernest Giel, representing ATA, together with Avril, representing the Divi Phoenix Resort. □

... AND at the Occidental Grand Beach Resort!

PALM BEACH - The Aruba Tourism Authority also had the great pleasure of honoring two more wonderful couples, whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Occidental Grand Aruba Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Scott and Kelly Lowe from Shepherdstown, WV as Distinguished Visitors, and Gayle McDonald and Sandy Mor-

ison, from East Hartford, CT, as Goodwill Ambassadors! Both couples are loyal guests of the Occidental Grand Aruba Beach Resort, and they love the island very much because of the friendly people of Aruba, the friends that they meet every year at the resort, and of course the climate, beaches and restaurants! The certificates were presented during a huge celebration with champagne and gifts from the resort by Ernest Giel, of the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with staff members and friends of the Occidental Grand Aruba Beach Resort. □



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NOORD – The Department of Customer Service and Yield at Caribbean Palm Village Resort was recognized with the Customer Service Satisfaction Award for maintaining the highest standard throughout the year and for providing top notch customer service to owners and guests at the resort. The award also signifies meeting departmental goals as approved by the Board of Directors, and also attaining top ratings gleaned from the Customer Service Satisfaction Survey which is administered at the resort, weekly. Additionally, says Board Mem-

ber Dr. Zendzian, all members of the department demonstrated high levels of commitment in accomplishing their department's goals. They displayed good team working qualities, as well as dedication to improvement. The award ceremony took place at Scabeche Restaurant and lauded a stand-out department for its work. The award is a rotating one, and will be handed out every year to the winning team, based on the findings of the resort's Customer Service Satisfaction Survey, which is filled out by members and reflects their opinions and thoughts. □

Aruba hosts a record 5 cruise ships at once!



ORANJESTAD - Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber was proud to warmly welcome about 13,000 cruise ship passengers to the island this week – all on the same day! It was an Aruban record when 5 cruise ships docked on the island with roughly 10,000 passengers

and 3,000 crew members on the same day, walking the center of Oranjestad, enjoying the warm sights and sounds of our beautiful island. Two years ago various new cruise lines started visiting Aruba, slowly building the island's reputation as one

of the top 5 destinations that cruise tourists requested as a port of call. Aruba is known for providing a quality tourism product to attract various international cruise lines. This demonstrates 2013 is going to be really positive for Aruba! □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Copa Airlines receives special recognition from AAA N.V.

ORANJESTAD – Recently Copa Airlines received a special recognition from Aruba Airport Authority N.V (AAA). During a delightful night at Fusion Lounge dedicated to all the air-

line partners, AAA proudly awarded Copa Airlines with this recognition. The airport's Airline Marketing Department works hard all year long to maintain good communica-



tion and monitor the performance of the airline partners together with the other partners in the industry. Through this good communication with the airlines and other partners, the airport's primary goals are achieved, which are to guarantee a continuity and quality in the service provided by the airlines flying to Aruba. The Airline Marketing Department signalled the outstanding performance by Copa Airlines and its commitment to enhancement of service to Aruba and decided that this behaviour should be awarded. Ms. Lupe Carion, Station Manager of Copa Airlines proudly accepted

the award on Copa Airlines' behalf and thanked Aruba Airport Authority for the recognition and reiterated Copa Airlines' commitment to the destination. Mr. Peter Steinmetz, CEO

of AAA together with Mr. Jorgen Benschoop, AAA's Director Operations and Ms. Jo-Anne Arends, Head Airline Marketing handed the award over to Ms. Lupe Carion. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

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Djokovic wins 17th straight match at Australian Open

Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts during his third round match against Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

Associated Press
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Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) passes over Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Bryant gets record 15th straight All-Star start

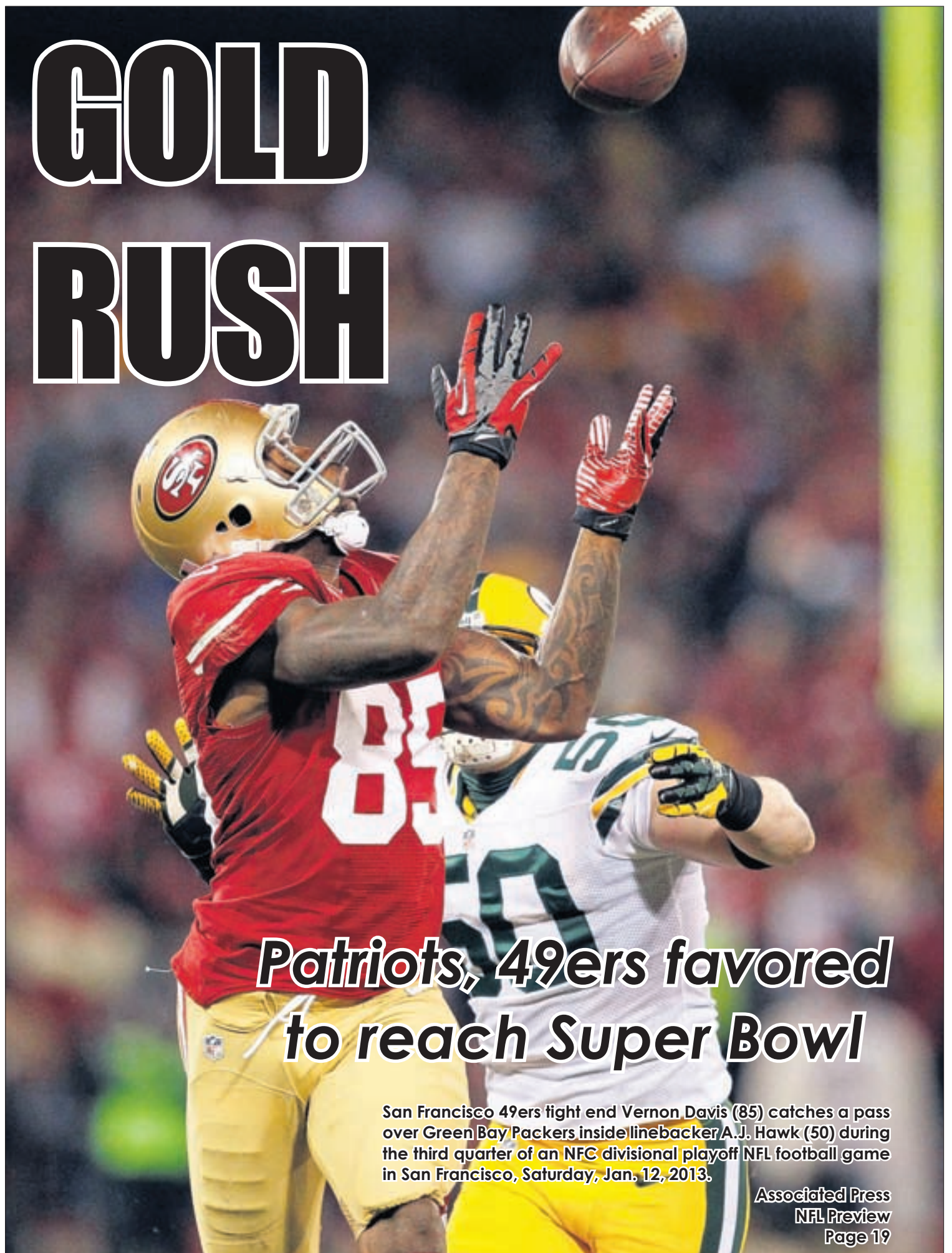
BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

Kobe Bryant has been voted to his NBA-record 15th consecutive All-Star start, leading four Los Angeles players into next month's game. Lakers teammate Dwight Howard and the Clippers' Chris Paul and Blake Griffin will join Bryant in the Western Conference lineup for the Feb. 17 game in Houston. Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, the MVP of last year's game, rounds out the five.

Kevin Garnett held off Chris Bosh in fan balloting, giving the East two Boston Celtics and two Miami Heat players. LeBron James and Dwyane Wade will represent the defending champions and receive passes from Rajon Rondo.

Continued from Page 17

GOLD RUSH



Patriots, 49ers favored to reach Super Bowl

San Francisco 49ers tight end Vernon Davis (85) catches a pass over Green Bay Packers inside linebacker A.J. Hawk (50) during the third quarter of an NFC divisional playoff NFL football game in San Francisco, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.

Associated Press
NFL Preview
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No. 1 McIlroy and No. 2 Woods out of Abu Dhabi

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy missed the cut at the Abu Dhabi Championship on Friday, a woeful start to the season for the world's top two golfers.

Woods missed out only after he was penalized two shots for wrongly taking a free drop, while top-ranked McIlroy was frustrated trying to adjust to his new Nike clubs, even though he used his old Titleist putter in the second round.

Justin Rose, meanwhile, played solid, mistake-free golf. Away from the large galleries, the Englishman shot a 3-under 69 for a total of 136 and a one-shot lead at the halfway point over Jamie Donaldson (70) of Wales, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano (67) of Spain and Thorbjorn Olesen (69) of Denmark.

Woods and McIlroy were



Rory McIlroy from Northern Ireland reacts on the 7th hole during the second round of Abu Dhabi Golf Championship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

Associated Press

expected to contend for the lead but often looked like weekend golfers. Their struggles captivated the crowds and their departure means it is the first time the world's top two players missed a cut in the same tournament since McIlroy and Luke Donald at the 2012 U.S. Open. The last

time in a regular tournament was in 2005 by Woods and Vijay Singh at Disney World.

"I didn't hit it particularly well. I putted great but just didn't hit it very good. I was struggling with that," Woods said.

"I have some work to do, and next week I'm play-

ing at Torrey (in San Diego), and obviously it will be different weather there, so going to go back and get ready."

Woods thought he was safe in finishing his second round at 1-over 73. But he was advised by the European Tour chief referee Andy McFee of the penalty, giving him a 75 and 3-over total of 147. The cut for the top 60 plus ties was 2 over. McFee said he warned Woods on the 11th tee of the penalty which was a result of his taking a free drop when his ball was embedded in sand which is not allowed.

"I called Martin (Kaymer) over to verify the ball was embedded. We both agreed it was embedded and evidently it was in sand," Woods said of the infraction which happened when his drive on 5 landed in a bed of vines. "Andy ruled I broke an infraction, consequently got a two-shot penalty. Andy feels

the way he feels about it and I broke the rules."

Kaymer said he thought the ball was embedded and was surprised to hear of the ruling.

"I didn't know about it and he obviously didn't know about it, otherwise he wouldn't have done it. It's an unfortunate thing," Kaymer said. "Obviously he was fighting back a lot, and he was 3 or 4 over par, and trying to make the cut. He was playing very well coming in. He was making nice putts in the end."

McFee said Woods didn't challenge him on the ruling. It came to light when a spectator alerted the European Tour to the infraction, he said.

After the drop, a reporter heard some spectators questioning whether the drop was appropriate.

"An embedded ball relief is through the green but in ground other than sand," McFee said. □

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perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

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Patriots, 49ers favored to reach Super Bowl

The Associated Press

A year after a brutal last-minute loss, the Baltimore Ravens are back to face the New England Patriots in an AFC Championship rematch, looking for a reversal of fortune and a Super Bowl berth on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Atlanta Falcons will be playing in the NFC Championship game for only the third time when they host the San Francisco 49ers, who have a chance to rekindle their glorious legacy, to follow in the footsteps of those magnificent teams that captured five Super Bowls titles in the 1980s and '90s, led by giants of the game such as Joe Montana, Jerry Rice and Steve Young.

New England is a 9½-point favorite to reach its sixth Super Bowl in the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick era. The Patriots quarterback and coach are 3-2 together in the big game, but the last two appearances have been losses to the New York Giants.

That surely must irk the two men who otherwise have dominated the last 12 NFL seasons. The Patriots have never lost their four previous AFC title games at home in Foxborough. They came close last January when Lee Evans couldn't hold onto a pass in the end zone in the final moment that would have sent the Ravens to their second Super Bowl and first since they won it all in 2001.

New England will move the ball on Baltimore and could resort to running it more often than in the past. Not only is Stevan Ridley a 1,000-yard rusher, something very rare for the Patriots, but the Ravens aren't nearly as stout as they once were at stopping the run. With the emergence of Shane Vereen and consistency from Danny Woodhead if he is healthy, the Patriots are deep in the backfield, too. The loss of star tight end Rob Gronkowski to a broken arm in the drubbing of Houston last weekend will be damaging for the Patriots, but not overwhelmingly so. Aaron Hernandez

will pick up the slack in receptions and the blocking of Michael Hoomanawanui against Houston was exemplary.

Where the Ravens could prosper is in a revitalized pass rush. Terrell Suggs finally is approaching his top defensive player status of 2011 after returning from a partially torn Achilles tendon. Paul Kruger already is a dynamic sack guy.

With only 13 interceptions during the season, the Ravens weren't a big threat to steal the ball. But they got two off Peyton Manning in last week's upset of the Broncos in Denver, and one off Andrew Luck to start the playoffs.

Ray Lewis' pending retirement as the NFL's best linebacker of his era adds an emotional boost for Baltimore.

In the end, New England's offense should be too persistent, too sharp and too deep for Baltimore to stop. Look for Wes Welker, Brandon Lloyd and Hernandez to have strong games, and for the Patriots' defense to keep Joe Flacco, Ray Rice, Anquan Boldin and Baltimore's dangerous offense from doing too much damage. The Falcons have never won the Super Bowl. They've been there only once, when a charismatic bunch known as the "Dirty Birds" shockingly made a run to the 1999 finale and were blown out by Denver in John Elway's finale.

While the Falcons are the NFC's top seed and playing at home, they are a three-point underdog against the 49ers, who looked unstoppable in last week's rout of the Green Bay Packers in the divisional round.

Had the Falcons kept their own rout going against Seattle last Sunday, they would probably be favored this week. But Atlanta nearly blew it. They're really good, as their last-minute rally for Matt Bryant's 49-yard field goal to beat the Seahawks proved. The issue: San Francisco simply is better.

Continued on Next Page



Atlanta Falcons kicker Matt Bryant (3) reacts to his game winning field goal against the Seattle Seahawks during the second half of an NFC divisional playoff NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013, in Atlanta. The Falcons won 30-28. Associated Press

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Houston Texans cornerback Kareem Jackson (25) cannot restrain New England Patriots running back Stevan Ridley as he crosses the goal line for an eight-yard touchdown during the second half of an AFC divisional playoff NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013. Associated Press

Patriots, 49ers favored to reach Super Bowl

Continued from
Previous Page

Of the remaining four teams, the 49ers are the most balanced. They have the best defense by far; only Seattle's unit really challenged them among all the playoff qualifiers. Atlanta will struggle to run against Patrick Willis, Justin Smith, NaVorro Bowman and co. So the Falcons will take to the air, a wise decision when you have playmakers Tony Gonzalez, Roddy White and Julio Jones. The problem is, the 49ers' secondary is as good as any, even if the interception

tions were down this season. And the pass rush, sparked by Aldon Smith, is formidable.

Where San Francisco has an edge over last season, when it lost at home to the Giants for the conference crown, is in its passing game. Second-year quarterback Colin Kaepernick has added a dynamic dimension with his strong arm, escapability and overall athletic skills. Michael Crabtree has developed into a dependable receiver with big-play abilities.

Add that to Frank Gore's running, and Atlanta's defense will be overmatched. □

NHL Preview

NHL action finally back on ice

The Associated Press

Whether the nearly four-month lockout was worth it or not, the National Hockey League and its players are set to leave the lawyers behind and get back on the ice.

The regular season of 82 games per team that was supposed to start in October has been slashed to a 48-game sprint over only 99 days.

It starts with 13 games on Saturday, including the Pennsylvania state derby between the Philadelphia Flyers and Pittsburgh Penguins.

The lockout ended last weekend with the league winning key concessions on salaries and lengths of contracts and the players association doing well to limit the damage and get a better pension deal.

"When you look back at the whole process, this is the best deal we could have got," Montreal Canadiens defenseman Josh Gorges said. "It's unfortunate it took as long as it did to get here, but that's the way negotiations go."

"We're playing hockey. That's all that matters." They'll be playing at a hectic pace to get games in before the regular season

ends on April 27. The playoffs start three days later and, if the Stanley Cup final goes seven games, will end on June 28.

It will be a help that all games are inside the conferences, reducing travel. Injuries, especially pulled groins, will be a concern with training camps limited to six days with no preseason contests. While about 200 players joined teams in Europe during the lockout, most stayed home to skate in small groups at city rinks and try to stay in shape in the gym.

New coaches Bob Hartley in Calgary, Ralph Krueger in Edmonton, Michel Therrien in Montreal and Adam Oates in Washington have had little time to implement systems and get to know their players.

"It's good and bad," Gorges added. "We want to be out there in games. That's what's good about a short camp, you don't have to wait too long. The flip side is you'd like a little more time to get prepared, but that's not the circumstance."

As play resumes, the Los Angeles Kings will finally get to raise their first Stanley Cup banner as they play host to the Chicago Blackhawks. □

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OTHER STARTERS:
Boston Celtics
forward Kevin Garnett (5)
blocks a shot by New York
Knicks forward Carmelo
Anthony (7) in the second
half of their NBA basketball
game at Madison Square
Garden in New York,
Monday, Jan. 7, 2013. The
Celtics won 102-96.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 17

New York's Carmelo Anthony is the other starter. Bryant finished with 1,591,437 votes, edging James by about 7,800 to finish as the leading vote-getter and break a tie with Shaquille O'Neal, Jerry West and Karl Malone for the most consecutive starting nods.

The NBA's leading scorer is a four-time MVP of the All-Star game and last year became its career scoring leader.

Garnett beat Bosh, who took to Twitter to stump for votes in the final days of balloting, by about 25,000 votes. He tied Bryant and O'Neal for second all-time with his 15th selection behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who was elected to 19 games.

It's the second straight year that Los Angeles teams will make up four players. Last year it was Bryant, Paul, Griffin and Andrew Bynum, who was dealt to Philadelphia in part of the deal that sent Howard from Orlando to Los Angeles. □

NBA Capsules

Clippers sweep past slumping Wolves

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jamal Crawford scored 22 points, Blake Griffin added 20 and Los Angeles hardly broke a sweat in cruising past free-falling Minnesota. Lamar Odom grabbed 12 rebounds and dished out six assists, and the Clippers outscored Minnesota's bench 45-23 to overcome Chris Paul's third straight missed game because of a knee injury.

Luke Ridnour scored 21 points and Ricky Rubio had four points and six assists in his first start of the season for the Timberwolves, who lost leading scorer and rebounder Nikola Pekovic to a bruised right quadriceps in the third quarter.

The Timberwolves shot just 35.7 percent and missed 15 of their 19 3-pointers in losing their fifth straight game.

HEAT 99, LAKERS 90

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James had 39 points and eight assists, Dwyane Wade added 27 points on his 31st birthday and the Miami Heat held off the Los Angeles Lakers 99-90 Thursday night to finish their six-game road trip with three wins.

Ray Allen scored seven of his nine points in the final 5 minutes as the defending NBA champions repelled a late charge by the Lakers, who lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Kobe Bryant scored 13 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for Los Angeles, which rallied for a brief lead midway through the final period before James and Allen secured the Heat's second win in their last eight road games against the Lakers.

KNICKS 102, PISTONS 87

LONDON (AP) — Carmelo



Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin dunks during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Anthony returned to the site of his Olympic triumph and scored 26 points to lead New York over Detroit. Anthony had 18 in the first half as the Knicks (25-13) jumped out to a 16-2 lead before holding a double-digit lead for most of the game.

Amare Stoudemire added 17 points for the Knicks and J.R. Smith scored 16. Will Bynum led the Pistons with 22 points.

The Pistons (14-25) were the home team at the O2 Arena in London, the site of the Olympic gold-medal game during last year's London Games. It was the third regular-season NBA game played at the venue, where the then-New

Jersey Nets swept the Toronto Raptors in a pair of games two years ago.

Anthony and Knicks teammate Tyson Chandler were on the team that celebrated a gold medal for the United States with a win over Spain in August. Chandler scored 10 points on Thursday and pulled down 14 rebounds. Anthony has at least 20 points in 25 straight games, extending the longest streak of his career.

BUCKS 98, SUNS 94

PHOENIX (AP) — Mike Dunleavy hit a 3-pointer with 57.4 seconds left to cap a 10-0 run and Milwaukee pulled away to snap a 24-game losing streak in Phoenix.

Monta Ellis scored 24 points and Larry Sanders added 19, while Dunleavy and Brandon Jennings had 16 apiece for the Bucks, who had not won in the Valley since Feb. 21, 1987, at the old Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Milwaukee has won four of six since interim coach Jim Boylan replaced Scott Skiles on Jan. 8. Shannon Brown scored 20 points off the bench for the Suns, who have lost four straight at home for the first time since 2004 and have dropped 13 of 15 overall. In other NBA games it was New York 102, Detroit 87; L.A. Clippers 90, Minnesota 77; Milwaukee 98, Phoenix 94; and Miami 99, L.A. Lakers 90. □

Djokovic beats Stepanek, advances to 4th round

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — Novak Djokovic absorbed plenty of pressure from Radek Stepanek before advancing to the fourth round of the Australian Open, then unleashed some stinging shots at Lance Armstrong after the doping-tainted cyclist's long-expected confession. Djokovic broke the 34-year-old, 34th-ranked Stepanek late in each set of a 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 win Friday, extending his winning streak to 17 matches at the Australian Open.

In the next match on Rod Laver Arena, Maria Sharapova beat Venus Williams 6-1, 6-3 in an unexpectedly lopsided third-round result.

Williams could consider herself fortunate — Sharapova's opponents in her first two matches failed to win a game from the Russian star.

Three matches into this tournament, and Sharapova, who pumped her arms six or seven times after she served out with an ace, has lost just four games heading into her fourth-round match against unseeded Belgian Kirsten Flipkens.

"I think when we both looked at the draw, it was a matchup we were both looking forward to," Sharapova said of Williams, a seven-time major winner. "I was a really determined player out there because I knew the tennis that she's capable of producing and playing. She's a tremendous athlete and a great champion."

Williams didn't feel like a great player on Friday.

"Definitely not my best today, but there's always other days to play better," she said. "I just had a lot of errors (26) ... that never helps."

At Djokovic's post-match news conference, the questions quickly turned from tennis to Armstrong's confessions about doping in cycling during his television interview with Oprah Winfrey in the U.S. Thursday night.

"I think it's a disgrace for



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates after defeating Venus Williams of the US in their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

Associated Press.

the sport to have an athlete like this," said Djokovic, the No. 1-ranked man in tennis. "He cheated the sport. He cheated many people around the world with his career, with his life story."

Djokovic, who has five Grand Slam titles, said the doping program in tennis was sufficient to catch the cheats, though he conceded he hasn't had a blood test that could detect illegal oxygen-boosting agents for six months. He will play No. 15 Stanislas Wawrinka, who beat American Sam Querrey 7-6 (6), 7-5, 6-4 on Friday, in the fourth round.

Querrey's loss meant that for the second consecutive year, there will be no American men in the fourth round at Melbourne Park. Last year was the first time no U.S. man reached the fourth round at the Australian Open since 1973 - when no Americans traveled to the tournament.

During Friday's match, Djokovic was troubled at times against the wily veteran Stepanek who mixed up the tempo with a lot of serve-and-volley and some unorthodox shot-making.

"Absolutely it was great. Great match and great fun," Djokovic said. "It's always tricky to play Radek. He's a talented player. Skillful player."

Told about the statistics — Stepanek won 36 of the 67 points he played at the net — Djokovic wasn't surprised at all.

"He's skillful on the net and he was not giving me a lot of rhythm — he was changing up the pace on the ball," Djokovic said. "Nowadays everything is based on the baseline. It's nice to see somebody coming to the net."

Stepanek had Djokovic smiling and acknowledging his winners on some points, frustrated him on others with his constant, stay-in-the-point defense, and even had chair umpire Carlos Bernardes grinning with his over-the-shoulder winner to save one match point near the end.

In Friday's last third-round match, fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain beat Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus 6-4, 6-2, 6-3, clinching the 1-hour, 57-minute match with an ace.

Elsewhere, fifth-seeded To-

mas Berdych of the Czech Republic beat Austria's Jurgen Melzer 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 and will next play South Africa's Kevin Anderson, who beat No. 22 Fernando Verdasco 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Others advancing included Japan's Kei Nishikori, who will face Ferrer in the fourth round, and No. 8-ranked Janko Tipsarevic, who has a tough next round against No. 10 Nicolas Almagro, a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1 winner over No. 24 Jerzy Janowicz. In other women's matches, Angelique Kerber survived some nervous moments before fending off American teenager Madison Keys 6-2, 7-5 in their third-round match, then got to blow out the candles on a cake to celebrate her 25th birthday.

Local organizers brought a cake onto the court for Kerber immediately after the match and the crowd at Rod Laver Arena sang "Happy Birthday." She blew out the candles and said thank you to the crowd and to the 17-year-old Keys.

Kerber will next play No. 19 Ekaterina Makarova of Russia, who advanced after a tough 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-4 win over 2007 Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli. In the fourth round last year, Makarova beat Serena Wil-

liams and was the first of only four women to best the powerful American in 2012.

Kerber was the last.

Fourth-seeded Angieszka Radwanska, meanwhile, won her 12th match in a row with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Britain's Heather Watson.

"I'm extremely happy to be playing my best tennis from the beginning of the year," said Radwanska, who won tournaments in Auckland and Sydney earlier this month.

Radwanska will now meet 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic, who beat Jelena Jankovic 7-5, 6-3 in a matchup featuring two Serbians who were both formerly ranked No. 1.

Sixth-seeded Li Na advanced with a 6-4, 6-1 win over No. 27 Sorana Cirstea of Romania and will next play No. 18 Julia Goerges, who prevented an all-China fourth-round encounter by beating Zheng Jie 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.

On Saturday, Victoria Azarenka and Serena Williams play their third-round matches and the featured night match has second-seeded Roger Federer taking on resurgent Australian Bernard Tomic, who won his first ATP title last week in Sydney after a poor 2012. □

AP Source: Alicia Keys to sing Super Bowl anthem

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writer

Alicia Keys is adding her voice to the Super Bowl show. The Grammy-winning R&B singer has been lined up to perform the national anthem before the NFL championship game on Feb. 3 in New Orleans, a person familiar with Super Bowl entertainment plans told The Associated Press on Friday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the NFL has not yet announced the anthem singer.

Keys, who turns 32 next week, released her fifth studio album, "Girl on Fire," late last year.

The Super Bowl teams will be determined this Sunday, when the San Francisco 49ers play the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC championship game, and the Baltimore Ravens face the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game.

The NFL said in October that Beyonce will be the star of the halftime show at this year's Super Bowl. She sang the national anthem at the 2004 NFL title game in her hometown of Houston. □

Overcharging batteries eyed in Boeing 787 mishaps

JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's likely that burning lithium ion batteries on two Boeing 787 Dreamliners were caused by overcharging, aviation safety and battery experts said Friday, pointing to developments in the investigation of the Boeing incidents as well as a battery fire in a business jet more than a year ago.

An investigator in Japan, where a 787 made an emergency landing earlier this week, said the charred insides of the plane's lithium ion battery show the battery received voltage in excess of its design limits. The similarity of the burned battery from the All Nippon Airways flight to the burned battery in a Japan Airlines 787 that caught fire Jan. 7 while the jet was parked at Boston's Logan International Airport suggests a common cause, Japan transport ministry investigator Hideyo Kosugi said.

"If we compare data from the latest case here and that in the U.S., we can pretty much figure out what happened," Kosugi said.

In the case of the 787 in Boston, the battery in the

plane's auxiliary power unit had recently received a large demand on its power and was in the process of charging when the fire ignited, a source familiar with the investigation of the 787 fire in Boston told The Associated Press. The plane had landed a short time earlier and was empty of passengers, although a cleaning crew was working in the plane.

The source spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued an emergency order Wednesday temporarily grounding the six 787s belonging to United Airlines, the lone U.S. carrier operating Boeing's newest and most technologically advanced airliner. The Japanese carriers already had grounded their 787s, and airlines and civil aviation authorities in other countries followed suit, shutting down all 50 Dreamliners that Boeing has delivered so far.

Boeing said Friday it will stop delivering new 787s to customers until the electrical system is fixed. However, production is not stopping. The plane is assem-

bled in Everett, Washington, and North Charleston, South Carolina. The aircraft maker has booked orders for more than 800 of the planes from airlines around the world attracted by its increased fuel efficiency.

A battery fire in a Cessna Citation CJ4, a business jet, prompted the Federal Aviation Administration in October 2011 to issue an emergency order requiring the lithium ion batteries in all 42 of the jets in operation at that time to be replaced with a conventional nickel-cadmium or lead-acid battery. The fire occurred while the plane was hooked up to a ground power station at Cessna's aircraft completion center in Wichita, Kansas. Normally, that would cause an aircraft battery to automatically start charging, experts said. A letter from Cessna to CJ4 owners after the incident cautioned: "Do not connect a ground power unit to the airplane if you have reason to believe the battery may be in a depleted state ... Do not leave the aircraft unattended with a ground power unit connected."

The Citation was Cessna's first business jet with a lith-



This Jan. 17, 2013 photo provided by the Japan Transport Safety Board shows the distorted main lithium-ion battery and its lid, left, of the All Nippon Airways' Boeing 787 which made an emergency landing on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013 at Takamatsu airport in Takamatsu, western Japan. At right are the model in normal condition. U.S. safety officials and Boeing inspectors joined a Japanese investigation Friday into the 787 jet at the center of a worldwide grounding of the technologically advanced aircraft. The pilot of the ANA plane made an emergency landing Wednesday morning after he smelled something burning and received a cockpit warning of battery problems. All passengers evacuated the plane on emergency slides.

Associated Press

U.S. venture investments declined in 2012

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study shows that funding for U.S. business startups declined in 2012, the first time that's happened in three years, as venture capitalists spent less money on fewer deals.

Capital-intensive sectors like clean technology and life sciences were among the hardest hit, according to the MoneyTree study released Friday.

It was conducted by PriceWaterHouseCoopers and the National Venture Capital Association, based on data from Thomson Reuters.

In all of 2012 startup investments fell 10 percent to \$26.52 billion from \$29.46 billion.

There were 3,698 deals completed, down 6 percent from 3,937 in 2011. Venture investments also declined 13 percent in the final quarter of the year, to \$6.4 billion from \$7.38 billion a year earlier, though the number of deals was the same in both quarters at 968.

"General economic uncertainty continues to hinder capital investments, and venture capitalists are no different," said Tracy T. Letteroff, global managing partner of the venture capital practice at PwC U.S.

"As the number of new funds being raised continues to shrink, venture capitalists are being more discriminating with where they're willing to place new bets. At the same time, they're holding on to reserves to continue to support the companies already in their portfolio."

By industry, software remained the largest investment sector last year, the report found, with \$8.27 billion invested into 1,266 deals. That's up from \$7.51 billion invested in 1,176 deals in 2011.

San Francisco's SquareTrade Inc., which provides electronics warranties, landed the biggest round of funding in 2012 — \$238 million from Bain Capital. Mobile payments startup Square Inc. was in second place with \$200 million secured from Citi Ventures and others. □

ium ion battery as its main battery, and the 787 is the first airliner to make extensive use of lithium ion batteries. But the two are vastly different in size and in other respects, including their electrical systems, making comparisons difficult. Their batteries also came from different makers. The reasons they overcharged are likely to be different, experts said. However, the three incidents — the two burned 787 batteries and the Citation fire — underscore the vulnerability of lithium ion batteries to igniting if they receive too much voltage too fast, experts said. Other types of batteries may overheat in those circumstances, but they are far less susceptible to starting a fire, they said. "Other batteries don't go this wrong when you treat them this badly," said Jay Whitacre, an associate professor of materials sci-

ence and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. "The overall story here is these batteries are full of flammable electrolyte and they will burn if they are mistreated and something goes wrong." There was one lithium ion battery fire during testing of the batteries while Boeing was working with FAA on certification of the 787, said Marc Birtel, a spokesman for the aircraftmaker. "There are multiple backups to ensure the system is safe," Birtel said. "These include protections against over-charging and over-discharging."

But John Goglia, an aviation safety expert and former National Transportation Safety board member, said, "It certainly sounds like based on what has been released so far that we have an issue of the battery charger or some other source providing too much energy to the battery." □

STREET BRIEFS U.S. Treasury has plans to sell GM stock

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department says it has come up with a plan on how it will sell the remaining 300.1 million shares of stock it owns in General Motors. The process will bring to an end almost four years of partial government ownership of the car maker. Treasury said Friday that the plan would be implemented by JPMorgan Securities and Citigroup Global Markets, the two financial firms it has hired to sell its remaining GM stock. Treasury would not reveal specific details of the sales plan or provide further information on timing. But officials said that the timing has not changed from December's announcement that it would sell the remaining stock shares over the next 12 to 15 months, subject to market conditions. □

Jobless rates fall in less than half US states

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment rates fell in less than half of U.S. states last month, as steady but slow hiring is making only gradual improvement in the job market. The Labor Department says that rates fell in 22 states in December and rose in 16. They were unchanged in 12. Nationwide, the rate remained 7.8 percent. The rate is now below 7 percent in 25 states. And some of the states hardest hit in the recession have seen solid gains. Nevada's unemployment rate, the highest in the nation, plummeted 0.6 percentage points last month to 10.2 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate, also 10.2 percent, dropped from 10.4 percent in November. California has the third-highest rate, at 9.8 percent, the same as the previous month but down from 11.2 percent a year ago. □

GE earnings gain on emerging market growth



General Electric Co. reported, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, that net income rose 8% in Q4 as earnings at all of the conglomerate's industrial segments improved due to growth in developing economies.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

C. REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Profits roared back at the investment bank Morgan Stanley in the fourth quarter, reversing a loss in the same period a year ago, when its results were weighed down by a costly legal settle-

ment.

Earnings increased sharply across the bank's business lines. Morgan Stanley underwrote more stock and bond offerings and brought in more fees from advising companies on mergers and other deals. Financial advisers in the

wealth management unit, who work with individual investors, generated more revenue per worker.

Investment banks like Morgan Stanley have traditionally focused on doing business with companies, governments and other big organizations. But Morgan Stanley has also been expanding its work with individuals, which can provide a steady source of revenue even when financial markets are volatile.

To that end, the bank is in the process of buying back the rest of the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney retail brokerage that it doesn't already own. Citigroup still owns 35 percent of the unit, and Morgan Stanley says it hopes to buy that stake back this year.

Morgan Stanley earned \$867 million after stripping out an accounting charge related to changes in the value of the bank's own debt. That compares with a loss of \$374 million in the same period a year ago.

The loss last year was re-

lated to a settlement Morgan Stanley made with the financial insurance company MBIA, which had accused the bank of misleading it about the quality of certain securities for which it bought insurance.

On a per-share basis, Morgan Stanley's earnings were equivalent to 45 cents, versus a loss of 20 cents per share a year ago. Revenue jumped 37 percent, to \$7.5 billion from \$5.5 billion. Morgan Stanley's stock climbed \$1.30 to \$22.05 in early trading, a gain of 6 percent. CEO James Gorman, in a prepared statement, acknowledged that the year had brought "significant challenges." The bank was criticized for its handling of Facebook's glitch-plagued stock market debut, and its credit rating was cut by the ratings agency Moody's. Gorman said the bank has "reached a pivot point," however, and is "poised to reach the returns of which it is capable on behalf of our shareholders." □

Profits roar back; stocks soar at Morgan Stanley

C. REXRODE

AP Business Writer

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People pass Morgan Stanley's headquarters in New York. Morgan Stanley says it swung to a profit in the fourth quarter. Shares jumped in pre-market trading, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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however, and is "poised to reach the returns of which it is capable on behalf of our shareholders."

Morgan Stanley bank is still under pressure to cut jobs and expenses as a way to boost earnings. □

Stocks end week with gains; GE rises, Intel falls

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Better earnings from General Electric and Morgan Stanley helped the stock market inch higher Friday, as major indexes closed out their third straight week of gains.

GE led the 30 stocks in the Dow Jones industrial average after the conglomerate reported stronger quarterly earnings, thanks to orders from Brazil, Angola and other developing countries. Profits increased at all seven of its industrial segments, including oil and gas, energy management, aviation and transportation. GE climbed 74 cents to \$22.04. The Dow gained 53.68 points to end at 13,649.70.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.04 points to 1,485.98, while the Nasdaq composite fell 1.30 points to 3,134.70.

Even though investors had plenty of news to digest, trading was largely quiet. "Earnings always matter," said Rex Macey, the chief investment officer of Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors in Atlanta. "But just because we're in the middle of earnings season doesn't mean we're going to get huge market moves."

This earnings season is off to a good start so far. Of the 67 companies in the S&P 500 that have reported, 43

have trumped analysts' estimates.

Solid results this week from JPMorgan Chase and others, along with encouraging news on housing and employment, pushed the S&P 500 index to its latest five-year high.

Morgan Stanley's earnings surged across its many business lines, as more companies hired the investment bank to help it raise money and line up mergers. Morgan Stanley gained 8 percent, rising \$1.63 to \$22.38. Intel, the world's biggest

chipmaker, said late Thursday that fourth-quarter net income fell 27 percent. A growing preference for smartphones and tablets, instead of personal computers and laptops powered by Intel chips, have made investors wary of the company's stock. It lost \$1.43 to \$21.25.

Norwegian Cruise Line soared 30 percent in its first day of trading, the top performance of the three companies making their public debut on Friday. Five companies raised a total of \$1.8 billion through initial public offerings this week, making it the best week for IPOs since early October, according to the data provider Ipreo.

American Express fell 96 cents to \$59.78. Hefty charges tied to the credit card issuer's plan to cut jobs and reorganize some business lines hurt results,

and revenue fell short of estimates.

Analysts forecast that companies in the S&P 500 will report a 4 percent increase in fourth-quarter earnings over the same period the year before, according to a report out Friday from S&P Capital IQ. They say banks and other financial firms should have the strongest profit growth of any industry. Technology companies like Intel are expected to struggle.

Among other companies in the news:

— Capital One lost 7 percent after reporting revenue and earnings that fell short of analysts' estimates. The bank and credit-card company also lowered its forecast for revenue in the months to come, and many brokerages quickly responded by cutting their outlook for the company's stock. □



A man walks past the Intel booth at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Intel Corp., the world's largest chipmaker, on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, said its fourth-quarter net income fell 27 percent from the previous year, as PC sales continued to weaken.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

HSBC to pay \$249M to settle foreclosure case

WASHINGTON (AP) — British bank HSBC will pay \$249 million to settle federal complaints that its U.S. division wrongfully foreclosed on homeowners who should have been allowed to stay in their homes.

The agreement with the Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is similar to deals with 12 other banks that ended a review of loan files required under a 2011 federal action. Combined, the 13 banks will pay \$9.3 billion.

The settlements could compensate Americans whose homes were seized

because of abuses such as "robo-signing," when banks automatically signed off on foreclosures without properly reviewing documents. The agreement will also help eliminate huge potential liabilities for the banks. Consumer advocates say regulators settled for too low a price by letting banks avoid full responsibility for foreclosures that victimized families.

Under the settlement, HSBC will pay \$96 million in cash compensation to about 112,000 homeowners. The rest — \$153 million — will go toward reducing mortgage balances and for-

giving outstanding principal on home sales that generated less than borrowers owed on their mortgages.

The payments to homeowners could range from hundreds of dollars up to \$125,000, depending on the type of possible error. "We are pleased to have reached this agreement ... and believe it is a positive development that will benefit homeowners," HSBC said in a statement. The bank said it expects to record a pre-tax charge of \$96 million for the fourth quarter of 2012 related to the cash compensation part of the settlement. □

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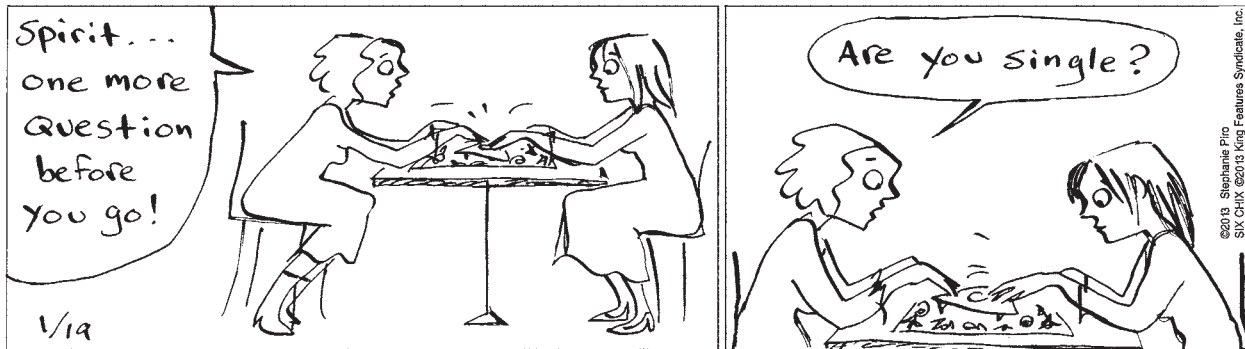


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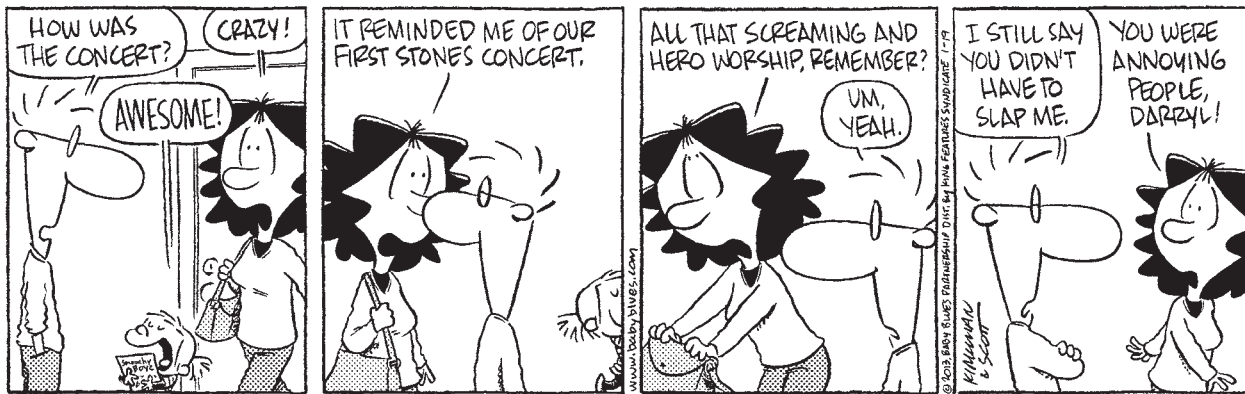
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	5		6		
			1		7			
						5		9
8	4						3	
6				8				7
	2						9	4
5		4						
			7		8			
		7		9	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	3	9	8	4	7	2	1	5
1	5	7	2	6	3	4	9	8
4	8	2	1	5	9	6	7	3
2	9	1	4	7	5	3	8	6
8	6	5	3	9	2	7	4	1
3	7	4	6	8	1	9	5	2
9	2	3	5	1	4	8	6	7
5	4	6	7	3	8	1	2	9
7	1	8	9	2	6	5	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 Lend a hand to
- 5 Forest opening
- 10 Bucket
- 14 Sinful
- 15 Lariat wielder
- 16 Make angry
- 17 Short note
- 18 Showy flower
- 19 Lupino and her namesakes
- 20 Great ability
- 22 Football shirts
- 24 Mothers
- 25 Transistor, e.g.
- 26 Church table
- 29 Off-; not in harmony
- 30 Misshapen folklore fellow
- 34 Caramel-glazed custard
- 35 Lubricate
- 36 Nun's title
- 37 Tit for
- 38 Heartburn antidote
- 40 Also
- 41 Come forth
- 43 Below
- 44 Chops down
- 45 More unusual
- 46 Viper
- 47 Rudely brief
- 48 Grab
- 50 Actress Arthur
- 51 French
- 54 Crowds together
- 58 Frosts a cake
- 59 More aged
- 61 Eggs sunny-
- 62 First word in a warning, often
- 63 Approaches
- 64 Tied, as scores
- 65 Finishes
- 66 Wooden shoe
- 67 Take care of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
24						25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38			39				40		
41		42			43				44			
45					46				47			
48			49				50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65					66				67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/19/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

CUGAT	TABS	PLEA
OPINE	EVEN	RIND
POLKA	PITA	INTO
ENLARGED	RINGER	
RILE	RESTORE	
BANANA	AISLE	
EWEGRAND	EROSE	
LEADEDGED	SPRY	
ASTERAIRED	ATE	
SURGE	BALLAD	
INGENUE	WIRE	
COURSE	OUTLASTS	
INIT	FARR	IDAHO
LOSE	USES	NEVER
YSER	LAST	GREET

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1/19/13

DOWN

- 1 Rope fiber
- 2 At any time
- 3 Star's car, often
- 4 Operator of a farm machine
- 5 Furry swimmer
- 6 Cat cries
- 7 Uneven; jagged
- 8 Smallest bill
- 9 Gentleman
- 10 Concur
- 11 Head topper
- 12 Will not submit
- 13 Hearing organ
- 14 Inflexible
- 15 Fall back into bad habits
- 16 Run
- 17 Chase
- 18 Camel's smaller cousin
- 19 Idaho export
- 20 Frontiersman
- 21 Carson
- 22 Bluetooth device
- 23 Rhododendron variety
- 24 TV's Koppel
- 25 Actor Jeremy
- 26 Pop
- 27 "Ticket to"; Beatles song

- 28 Piece of Greek Orthodox art
- 29 Peddle
- 30 Long sandwich
- 31 Not taped
- 32 Biblical garden
- 33 Put in the mail
- 34 Small amount

Classifieds



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19802A

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2 Bedroom- ocean pool view
week 2&3 \$1200 per week
week 2 one bedroom pool ocean view \$1000 per week
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198395

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19802B

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NASA, Europeans uniting to send spaceship to moon

MARCIA DUNN

**AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida
(AP)** — NASA is teaming up

with the European Space Agency to get astronauts beyond Earth's orbit.

Europe will provide the propulsion and power compartment for NASA's new Orion crew capsule, officials said Wednesday. This so-called service module will be based on Europe's supply ship used for the International Space Station.

Orion's first trip is an unmanned mission in 2017. Any extra European parts will be incorporated in the first manned mission of Orion in 2021.

NASA's human exploration chief, Bill Gerstenmaier, said both missions will be aimed at the vicinity of the moon.

The exact details are being worked out; lunar fly-bys, rather than landings, are planned.

NASA wants to ultimately use the bell-shaped Orion spacecraft to carry astronauts to asteroids and Mars.

International cooperation will be crucial for such endeavors, Gerstenmaier told reporters.

The United States has yet to establish a clear path forward for astronauts, 1½ years after NASA's space shuttles stopped flying. The basic requirements for Ori-



In this March 10, 2008 photograph made available by NASA, a simulated Orion crew module mock-up is being unloaded in a hangar in Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va. for testing. The capsule was later renamed the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle. Associated Press

on spacecraft are well understood regardless of the destination, allowing work to proceed, Gerstenmaier said.

"You don't design a car to just go to the grocery store," he told reporters. Getting to 2017 will be challenging, officials for both space programs acknowledged.

Gerstenmaier said he's not "100 percent comfortable" putting Europe in such a crucial role. "But I'm never 100 percent comfortable" with spaceflight, he noted. "We'll see how it goes, but we've done it smartly."

The space station helped build the foundation for this new effort, he said.

Former astronaut Thomas Reiter, Europe's director of human spaceflight, said it makes sense for the initial

Orion crew to include Europeans. For now, though, the focus is on the technical aspects, he said. NASA will supply no-longer-used space shuttle engines for use on the service modules.

Reiter put the total European contribution at nearly \$600 million.

Orion originally was part of NASA's Constellation program that envisioned moon bases in the post-shuttle era. President Barack Obama canceled Constellation, but Orion was repurposed and survived.

A test flight of the capsule is planned for next year; it will fly 3,600 miles (5,790 kilometers) away and then return. □

NASA's Curiosity rover readying to drill on Mars

**ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scientists have zeroed in on a Martian target for the Curiosity rover to drill into: A rock outcrop as flat as a pool table that's expected to yield fresh insight into the red planet's history. Running a tad behind schedule, Curiosity was due to arrive at the site in the next several days. After an inspection of the surroundings, the car-size rover will test its drill for the first time "probably in the next two weeks," project manager Richard Cook of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory said Tuesday.

The highly anticipated drilling has been billed as the most complex engineering task since the acrobatic landing inside a Martian crater last summer. Curiosity is on a quest to determine whether environmental conditions could have been favorable for microbes.

By boring into a rock and transferring the

powder to the rover's onboard chemistry lab and other instruments, scientists should get a better handle on the region's mineral and chemical makeup.

"We're thrilled, and we can't wait to get drilling," said project scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology.

Previous rovers Opportunity and Spirit carried a grinding tool that peeled away rock layers. Curiosity is capable of drilling down several inches to collect a sample from the interior — a first on Mars.

Opportunity is still operating on the surface of Mars, but Spirit lost contact with Earth in 2010.

Since the \$2.5 billion Curiosity mission launched in 2011, engineers have been troubleshooting an issue with the rover's drill in which flakes of Teflon can break off and get mixed with the rock samples. Cook said the contamination should not affect the mission. □

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Armstrong interview draws 3.2M viewers



A video screen at a hotel restaurant in Grapevine, Texas, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, shows a replay telecast of a segment of Lance Armstrong being interviewed by Oprah Winfrey.

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey's much-anticipated interview with Lance Armstrong was seen by a total of 4.3 million viewers in back-to-back airings Thursday night on OWN. But the interview with the disgraced cycling champion drew only 3.2 million viewers for its first airing, an audience that fell short of OWN's most-watched

program: an interview Winfrey conducted with the family of Whitney Houston last March following the singer's death the previous month. During the highly publicized program, Armstrong confessed to taking banned substances for all seven of his Tour de France victories, among other admissions.

The second half of the Armstrong interview is scheduled to air Friday night. □

For global distribution Robert Chew, actor on 'The Wire' dies at 52

BALTIMORE (AP) — Robert Chew, who played Proposition Joe on the HBO series "The Wire," has died. He was 52.

His sister, Clarice Chew, said he suffered a heart attack and died at his Baltimore home Thursday. Robert Chew grew up in Baltimore and studied music at Morgan State University for two years. His sister said he worked as music director for the Arena Players community theater.

The character Prop Joe was a highly intelligent and ruthless yet polite and diplomatic Baltimore drug lord. Another sister, Maureen Brown, said strangers would approach Chew on the street in Baltimore and tell him what a great job he did in that role.

He also appeared in TV shows "The Corner" and "Homicide: Life on the Street" and the 2004 TV movie "Something the Lord Made." □



Anita Hill poses for a portrait during the Sundance Film Festival on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, in Park City, Utah. Hill made national headlines in 1991 when she testified that then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas had sexually harassed her. Now, more than 20 years later, director Freida Mock explores Hill's landmark testimony and the resulting social and political changes in the documentary "Anita," premiering Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival.

Associated Press

Anita Hill reflects on Senate hearings in 'Anita'

By SANDY COHEN
Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Anita Hill made national headlines in 1991 when she testified that then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas had made sexually inappropriate comments toward her, giving prominent exposure to the idea of sexual harassment. Hill was verbally attacked, and Thomas was confirmed. More than 20 years later, director Freida Mock explores Hill's landmark testimony and the resulting social and political changes in the documentary "Anita," premiering Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival. "It was the right time for me because I just realized that, since I work with young people at a university, I realized how their orientation was so visual — visual in the sense of moving pictures," Hill said in an interview Friday, "and this was really an opportunity to have a story told in a way that was going to continue and be available and informative

to people of a new generation."

Mock said the 20th anniversary of Hill's testimony was the perfect time to "benchmark the event."

"It offered kind of a great bookend to look at the story: Her personal story as well as our country's story, and what's happened socially and politically from what Anita did in terms of raising that issue about sexual misconduct," the director said.

The two women spent more than three years making the film, which goes back further than the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings to Hill's childhood. It also looks forward, exploring the young activists working today to eradicate gender discrimination and promote equality.

Hill's testimony changed the course of her career. "What ultimately happened was I realized the issue did not just shrink," she said. "Even just explaining what sexual harassment laws are did not shrink the

issues. It was almost like it was an onion: You started peeling at one layer and then you realized there were all these different layers."

After receiving a call from a stranger who revealed that he had been sexually abused, Hill was determined to continue the national conversation about sexual discrimination.

"At that point, I realized that this was an issue that resonated with women. It was an issue that resonated with men. It was an issue that was about sexual harassment. It was an issue about sexual abuse and sexual violence, and it just kept going from there," she said. "It did change not only where I worked, but it changed the entire nature of my work."

Hill said she summoned the courage to testify against Thomas because of her love of the law.

"For me it was really about the court, and the integrity of the court was at stake," she said. □



Fox News signs Karl Rove for 4 more years

NEW YORK (AP)—Karl Rove enlivened Fox News Channel's election coverage last year by questioning the network's declaration that Barack Obama had been re-elected. It hasn't affected Fox's desire to keep him on the air.

The network announced Thursday that it had signed Rove to a new contract as a contributor. The deal runs through the 2016 election. Rove was once President George W. Bush's political

right-hand man and the force behind a powerful political action committee that sought to oust Obama. He caused a stir with his election night doubts, which led anchor Megyn Kelly to interview Fox's own election experts on the air to defend their call.

Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes says Rove's detailed knowledge of politics, fundraising and strategy make him an important player in Fox's coverage. □

'Django Unchained' action figures discontinued



Community activist Najee Ali holds an action figure depicting Calvin Candie, Leonardo DiCaprio's character from the Quentin Tarantino film "Django Unchained", during a news conference Tuesday Jan. 8, 2013 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Weinstein Co. has asked a toy maker to discontinue a line of

"Django Unchained" action figures after receiving complaints that they were offensive.

The studio said Friday that such collectibles have been created for all of director Quentin Tarantino's

films, including "Inglourious Basterds," and that they were meant for people 17 and older, the audience for the film.

"Django Unchained" is a violent mix of spaghetti Western and blaxploitation genres about a freed slave (Jamie Foxx) who becomes a bounty hunter. Civil rights groups argued that the toys trivialized the horrors of slavery. □

'Ripper Street' stars Matthew Macfadyen, 1880s London



This undated publicity photo released by BBC shows, from left, Jerome Flynn as Detective Sergeant Bennet Drake, Matthew Macfadyen as Detective Inspector Edmund Reid and Adam Rothenberg as Captain Homer Jackson, in a scene from "Ripper Street," which debuts on BBC America on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, 9 ET.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Matthew Macfadyen is perfectly presentable in jeans and a crewneck sweater that coordinates nicely with the blue of his eyes.

But the look is far from the elegant attire he wore as Mr. Darcy opposite Keira Knightley's Elizabeth in the 2005 film "Pride & Prejudice." And his posture is just as casual, which he acknowledges might offend the aristocratic character's diehard fans.

"You're slouching! What are you doing? Stand up straight, man!" Macfadyen says, teasing himself.

He looks back fondly on what he calls the "iconic" role drawn from Jane Austen's novel. But the British actor who's also known to audiences for his part as an intelligence officer in the series "MI-5" ("Spooks" in the U.K.) welcomes the chance to switch gears.

"I, as most actors, want to mix it up and do different things. Otherwise it gets boring and tiresome, not only for yourself but for ev-

eryone else seeing you do the same kind of thing," he said. "The joy of being an actor is to play different parts, do something different."

Macfadyen's latest chance for diversity comes in "Ripper Street," an 1880s police drama set on the gritty and untamed streets of London's East End around the period that serial killer Jack the Ripper terrorized the area.

The series, starring Macfadyen as Detective Inspector Edmund Reid, debuts Saturday (9 p.m. EST) on BBC America after starting its British run this month. BBC America is home to another rough-and-tumble, 18th-century police drama, "Copper," set in 1860s New York City and the channel's first original scripted series.

The mysterious and brutal Jack the Ripper has been recycled throughout pop culture in films including 1979's "Time After Time" and 2001's "From Hell" with Johnny Depp. But series creator Richard Warlow said the killer is a backdrop and invisible character for

"Ripper Street."

"What we wanted to do really was to tell stories about the streets down which he walked and committed his crimes in the wake of those terrible murders," Warlow said, "and how it affected the community and, most importantly, the police that tried and failed to catch him."

Each episode will include what he called a "stand-alone crime" as well as pull at the thread of Reid's life, including those surrounding him at work and at home.

Macfadyen said he was reluctant to take on another series after two plus-seasons on "MI-5" because of TV's demanding production schedules. Then the "Ripper Street" pilot script came his way last year.

"I thought the Jack the Ripper thing had been done before ... but I loved it. The thing that was most attractive was the language and the way he (Warlow) constructs the sentences ... they feel very muscular without feeling sort of wanky and silly. ... They feel very muscular."

There is an antiquated eloquence to the dialogue that contrasts with the drama's mean streets and violent sexuality of the first case tackled by Reid and his cohorts, police Sgt. Bennet Drake (Jerome Flynn, "Game of Thrones") and American forensics whiz Capt. Homer Jackson (Adam Rothenberg, "The Ex List").

Macfadyen said he was drawn to his character's modern sensibility.

Reid isn't "a sort of stock detective character. He's a very free thinking, forward-looking kind of man, not a sort of jaded 'seen it all' copper. So I was intrigued by that," he said.

The detective's viewpoint is so expansive that he can't resist admiring the potential of an early version of a motion picture camera — even when he's just thwarted its use in making a 19th-century snuff film. □

The Next 4 Years



DAVID BROOKS

© 2013 New York Times

President Barack Obama's second inaugural comes at an interesting moment, what you might call the end of the era of the Grand Bargain. Throughout his first term, Democrats and Republicans didn't achieve a Grand Bargain on spending and taxes, but there was a sense that history was moving in that direction.

The Simpson-Bowles commission sketched out a vision of what a Grand Bargain might look like. Obama and John Boehner tried to craft some semi-Grand Bargains. There was a lot of talk at think tanks of what the best combination of tax reform and entitlement reform might be.

The "fiscal-cliff" fiasco has persuaded many smart people that a Grand Bargain is not going to happen any time soon. A political class that botched the fiscal cliff so badly are not going to be capable of a gigantic deal on complex issues. It's like going into a day care center and asking a bunch of infants to perform "Swan Lake."

Polarization is too deep. Special interests are too strong. The negotiators are too rusty. Republicans are not going to give up their vision of a low-tax America. Democrats are not willing to change the current entitlement programs.

So as the president enters his second term, there has to be a new controlling narrative, a new strategy for how to spend the next four years.

As you know, I am an earnest, good-government type, so the strategy I'd prefer might be called Learning to Crawl. It would be based on the notion that you have to learn to crawl before you can run. So over the next four years, legislators should work on a series of realistic, incremental laws that would rebuild the habits of compromise, competence and trust.

We could do some education reform, expand visa laws to admit more high-skill workers, encourage responsible drilling for natural gas, maybe establish an infrastructure bank. Political leaders would erode partisan orthodoxies and get back into the habit of passing laws together. Then, down the road, their successors could do the big things.

I may be earnest, but I'm not an idiot. I know there is little chance that today's partisan players are going to adopt this kind of incremental goo-goo approach. It's more likely that today's majority party is going to adopt a different strategy,

which you might call Kill the Wounded. It's more likely that today's Democrats are going to tell themselves something like this:

"We live at a unique moment. Our opponents, the Republicans, are divided, confused and bleeding. This is not the time to allow them to rebuild their reputation with a series of modest accomplishments. This is the time to kick them when they are down, to win back the House and end the current version of the Republican Party."

"First, we change the narrative. The president ran in 2008 against Washington dysfunction, casting blame on both parties. Over the years, he has migrated to a different narrative: The Republicans are crazy. Washington could be working fine, but the Republicans are crazy."

"At every public appearance, the president should double-down on that theme. The Democratic base already believes it. The media is sympathetic. Independents could be persuaded."

"Then, wedge issues. The president should propose no new measures that might unite Republicans, the way health care did in the first term. Instead, he should raise a series of wedge issues meant to divide Southerners from Midwesterners, the Tea Party/Talk Radio base from the less ideological corporate and managerial class."

"He's already started with a perfectly designed gun control package, inviting a long battle with the NRA over background checks and magazine clips. That will divide the gun lobby from suburbanites. Then he can re-introduce Bush's comprehensive immigration reform. That will divide the anti-immigration groups from the business groups (conventional wisdom underestimates how hard it is going to be for Republicans to back comprehensive reforms)."

"Then he could invite a series of confrontations with Republicans over things like the debt ceiling – make them look like wackos willing to endanger the entire global economy. Along the way, he could highlight women's issues, social mobility issues (student loans, community college funding) and pick fights on compassion issues, (hurricane relief) – promoting any small, popular spending programs that Republicans will oppose."

"Twice a month, Democrats should force Republicans to cast an awful vote: Either offend mainstream supporters or risk a primary challenge from the right."

Just as Sen. Mitch McConnell made defeating Obama his main political objective, Democrats seem likely to make winning back the House their primary political objective. Experts are divided on how plausible this is, but the GOP is unpopular and the opportunity is there.

This isn't the Washington I want to cover, but it's the most likely one. How will Republicans respond to this onslaught? I have no idea. □



Barack Obama's 1-2 Punch?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2013 New York Times

If election campaigns are supposed to be an exercise in coming to grips with our biggest problems, then the one we just went through was a dismal failure. Our only real solution – a strategy to reignite consistent growth so we can narrow our income gaps and lift the middle class – never got a serious airing. Instead, each side was focused on how to secure a bigger slice of a shrinking pie for its own base. This lousy campaign produced the worst of all outcomes: President Barack Obama won on a platform that had little to do with our core problems and is only a small part of the solution – raising taxes on the wealthy – so he has little incentive to rethink his strategy. And the Republicans did not lose badly enough – they held the House – to have to fully rethink their strategy. It does not bode well.

In his book "The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth," Harvard economist Benjamin Friedman argues that periods of economic growth have been essential to American political progress; periods of economic prosperity were periods of greater social, political and religious harmony and tolerance. On Sunday, The Times' Annie Lowrey wrote a piece quoting Friedman, who wondered aloud whether we're not now entering a reverse cycle, "in which our absence of growth is delivering political paralysis, and the political paralysis preserves the absence of growth." I think he's right and that the only way to break out of this

deadly cycle is with extraordinary leadership. Republicans and Democrats would have to govern in just the opposite way they ran their campaigns – by offering bold plans that not only challenged the other's base but also their own and thereby mobilized the center, a big majority, behind their agenda, to break the deadlock. If either party does that, not only will it win the day but the country will win as well.

What would that look like? If the Republican Party had a brain it would give up on its debt-ceiling gambit and announce instead that it wants to open negotiations immediately with Obama on the basis of his own deficit commission, the Simpson-Bowles plan. That would at least make the GOP a serious opposition party again – with a platform that might actually appeal outside its base and challenge the president in a healthy way. But the GOP would have to embrace the tax reforms and spending cuts in Simpson-Bowles first. Fat chance. And that's a pity.

As for Obama, if he really wants to lead, he will have to finally trust the American people with the truth. I'd love to see him use his Jan. 21 Inaugural Address and his Feb. 12 State of the Union message as a one-two punch to do just that – offer a detailed, honest diagnosis and then a detailed, honest prescription.

On the diagnosis side, Obama needs to explain to Americans the world in which they're now living. It's a world in which the increasing velocity of globalization and the information technology revolution are reshaping every job, workplace and industry. As a result, the mantra that if you "just work hard and play by rules" you should expect a middle-class lifestyle is no longer operable. Today you need to work harder and smarter, and learn and relearn faster and longer to be in the middle class. The high-wage, middle-skilled job is a thing of the past. Today's high-wage or decent-wage jobs all require higher skills, passion or

curiosity. Government's job is to help provide citizens with as many lifelong learning opportunities as possible to hone such skills.

In the State of the Union, I'd love to see Obama lay out a detailed plan for tax reform, spending cuts and investments – to meet the real scale of our problem and spur economic growth. We'll get much more bang for our buck by deciding now what we're going to do in all three areas and signaling markets that we are putting in place a truly balanced approach but gradually phasing it in. If you tell investors and savers that we're going to put our fiscal house in order with a credible plan, but one that is gradually phased in, all the money sitting on the sidelines paralyzed by uncertainty will get off the sidelines and we'll have a real stimulus.

As for investment, I'd love to see the president launch us on an aspirational journey. My choice would be to connect every home and business in America to the Internet at 1 gigabit per second, or about 200 times faster than our current national household average, in five years. In an age when mining big data will be a huge industry, when online lifelong learning will be a vital necessity, and when we can't stimulate our way to prosperity but have to invent our way there, no project would be more relevant.

I still believe that America's rich and the middle classes would pay more taxes and trim entitlements if they thought it was for a plan that was fair, would truly address our long-term fiscal imbalances and would set America on a journey of renewal that would ensure our kids have a crack at the American dream. Then again, I may be wrong. Maybe my baby-boomer generation really does intend to eat it all and leave our kids a ticking debt bomb. If only we had a second-term president, unencumbered by ever having to run again, who was ready to test what really bold leadership might produce. □

For Spring/Summer 2013: Louis Vuitton launches captivating series of promotional visuals!

NEW YORK/ORANJESTAD

- For the first time in Louis Vuitton history, the fashion house presented a show that featured different identifying elements and designs distinctive of the luxury brand, except for its most iconic, the LV monogram.

The Spring/Summer 2013 collection was mostly about the historic Damier canvas and pieces from the captivating collection will be available at the Aruba Louis Vuitton boutique as well.

Following the precedent of recent seasons, Louis Vuitton's Spring/Summer 2013 promotional campaign recreates, with extreme attention to detail, the ambiance of the fashion show, which took place during Paris Fashion Week.

Accordingly, the set of the promotional campaign is a yellow and white checkerboard recalling the historic Damier canvas. The set is a design by the French conceptual artist Daniel Buren, who also worked with Louis Vuitton Artistic Director Marc Jacobs to create the set of the memorable Paris Fashion Week show.

Shot in a New York studio by Steven Meisel, the campaign pairs 12 up-and-coming models, most of whom walked the Louis Vuitton runway in October, wearing similar outfits and carrying identical handbags.

Marc Jacobs takes up the story: "I have always loved Daniel Buren's work, and Les Deux Plateaux in the Palais Royal in Paris – a series of striped columns of

three different heights – was the inspiration for the proportions of the clothes. I felt that the idea of pairing the girls as 'twins' heightened the message of repetition, and the repetition of pattern, which is key this season. Sometimes, they are perfectly matched twins, and other times they are mismatched, wearing different lengths – mini or midi, or midi and maxi – reflecting the different column heights."

For his part, Daniel Buren, who supervised the construction of the set in New York, was delighted to continue his collaboration with Louis Vuitton. "I have never done anything of this kind before, so that in itself was a surprising experience," he says.

"What was also surprising – given that my projects can take years to complete – was to see how quickly we could move from the initial sketch to the finished set. I enjoyed that." The artist will also design window displays for selected Louis Vuitton stores, to be unveiled with the ready-to-wear collection in March 2013.

About Louis Vuitton: Founded in Paris in 1854, Louis Vuitton is synonymous with the Art of Travel. Its iconic trunks, luggage and bags have accompanied journeys throughout time. With the arrival of Artistic Director Marc Jacobs in 1997, Louis Vuitton extended its expertise to ready-to-wear, shoes, accessories, watches and jewelry, available in its exclusive network of stores around the world. □

